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WEATHER CROPS AND MARKETS

Published Weekly by the
United States Department of Agriculture

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WASHINGTON, D. C. DECEMBER 22, 1923. VOL. 4, NO. 25

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Review.

This year's cotton crop is estimated at 10,081,000 bales, the estimate being based on all available information and relating to December 1. It does not include linters. The average yield per acre this year is 128.8 pounds, only 4.3 pounds more than in 1921, when it was the lowest on record. The December 1 price to producers was 31.0 cents per pound.

Heavy runs of hogs forced prices to the lowest point since 1915. Brisk demand for lard sustains the market for packing grades and materially narrows the price range. Light-weight steers and yearlings suitable for the Christmas trade advance in price. Lamb prices advance but later decline, with demand centered chiefly on the well-finished handyweights.

Dressed-meat trade is rather quiet both at eastern and middle western markets. Veal and fresh pork loins are firm and generally higher, beef and mutton about steady, with lamb weak and $1 to $2 lower.

Butter markets were unsettled during the week December 10–15. Demand was sluggish and confined mostly to top grades. Retail outlets appear narrower since the high prices reached have prevailed. Reports indicate that production is holding up well for the season. All operators in the markets are operating cautiously. Imports continue in moderate quantities.

Cheese markets were featured by declines early in the week, but these again failed to bring about any material increase in trading activity. Demand was very slow, with most buyers showing no interest in purchases. Dull trading is expected until after the first of the year.

Inactivity in the apple market may be partly the result of the very heavy production. This year's commercial crop is the largest on record, the total of 34,403,000 barrels, exceeding by half a million barrels the big crop of 1920 and by 8% the crop of last year. Most of the net increase is in the Potomac Valley, Illinois, and the Pacific Northwest. New York State expects considerably fewer apples than in November. Cold-storage holdings also are very large, the total being equal to 3,000,000 barrels more than on December 1, 1922. Boxed apples tended toward slightly higher price levels, and the market for barreled stock was rather unsettled. The December estimate of potato production shows a decrease of about 4,000,000 bushels from the November report, but this season's crop is still the fourth largest on record. Latest figures are 412,392,000 bushels, with the decreases mostly in Maine, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Nebraska and the important increases in Michigan, North Dakota, and New York. Northeastern shipping sections reported slightly higher f. o. b. prices during the week ending December 15, but city markets showed few striking changes. Cabbage prices declined somewhat after the recent high levels, and onions closed weaker. Total shipments of 15 fruits and vegetables decreased by 1,350 cars to less than 12,000 for the week.

Grain market was generally lower. Demand was restricted by holiday dullness. Heavier feeding of corn is indicated in Central West. There was a good export demand for rye flour.

Hay Market Continued Generally Firm. Receipts were of fair volume, but the usual holiday dullness prevailed in the trade. Best grades of timothy were scarce and prices firm. Drought in California is rapidly exhausting supply of hay in that State. Prairie exceeded demand at Minneapolis.

Feed markets were quiet but firm, particularly in the West. Eastern markets were dull and unchanged and Pacific coast markets slightly easier. The demand from the interior was light and confined principally to near-by shipment stuff.

Cotton prices fluctuated violently during the week December 10–15, with net prices a little over ½¢ below the close of the previous week. The Crop Reporting Board's estimate of the total production for the season of 10,081,000 bales, was a little above trade expectations and caused quite a flurry in prices. December future contracts at New York closed at 33.85¢, compared with 34.48¢ last week.

Farm work was considerably delayed in the Southern States because of frequent rainfall during the week, and there was some interruption to corn husking in the Ohio Valley. Fields in the principal wheat-growing area remain bare of snow and, in fact, there was little or no snow on the ground in any section east of the Rocky Mountains, a condition very unusual for northern Michigan and the more northeastern States. The weather was unfavorable for stock in much of the Southwest, because of snow-covered range and low temperatures, but no material losses were reported.

Crop Reports

Cotton Crop Estimated at 10,081,000 Bales.

The total production of cotton in the United States for the season of 1923–1924 amounts to 4,281,333,000 pounds (not including linters), equivalent to 10,081,000 bales of 500 pounds, gross weight, according to the estimate of the department for the date of December 1, published December 12. The bale of 500 pounds has lint estimated at 478.3 pounds and a tare of bagging and ties estimated to weigh 21.7 pounds.

This estimate was based on reports of its correspondents and field statisticians, and on the advancement of picking and ginning considered in connection with actual ginnings to December 1.

The total production (cotton ginned) of the cotton crop of 1922 was 9,761,817 bales (500 pounds gross); of 1921, 7,953,641 bales; of 1920, 13,439,603 bales; of 1919, 11,420,763 bales; of 1918, 12,040,532 bales; of 1917, 11,302,375 bales; and of 1916, 11,449,930 bales. The average production for the five years 1910 to 1914 was 14,259,231 bales, and for 1915 to 1919 the average was 11,481,084 bales.

The average weight per running bale of cotton this year is estimated at 498.7 pounds gross, compared with the weights reported by the Bureau of the Census of 501.7 pounds in 1922, 498.5 pounds in 1921, 506.4 pounds in 1920, and 504.3 pounds, the average for the preceding five years.

The reports of the department concerning cotton production do not include "linters," which are a product obtained at mills from the seed. The production of linters is about 6.2% as much as the lint production in the average of 1917–1921.

In average yield per acre cotton production varies greatly among the States. It goes as low as only 40 pounds of lint in Florida and as high as 325 pounds in Virginia. Other low yields are 82 pounds in Georgia, 89 pounds in Mississippi, 90 pounds each in Tennessee and Oklahoma, 91 pounds in Alabama, and 97 pounds in Arkansas. Among the other high yields per acre, compared with those of other States, are 290 pounds in North Carolina, 187 pounds in South Carolina, 162 pounds in Missouri, and 146 pounds in Texas. The average yield per acre for all cotton States is only 128.8 pounds, comparing with 141.5 pounds in 1922 and with 124.5 pounds in 1921, the record lowest.

Abandoned acreage has been excluded from the acreage that produced this crop, and the productive cotton acreage of this year is 37,420,000 acres, comparing with 33,036,000 acres in 1922. Of this total, Texas has 14,081,000 acres, or 38%, Mississippi, 3,298,000 acres; Oklahoma, 3,295,000 acres; and Alabama, 3,149,000 acres.

The price per pound of lint cotton to producers December 1 was 31.0 cents, compared with a December 1 price of 23.8 cents in 1922, 16.2 cents in 1921, 13.9 cents in 1920, 35.6 cents in 1919, 27.6 cents in 1918, 27.7 cents in 1917, and 19.6 cents in 1916.

Production, yield per acre, acreage, and farm price of cotton, 1922–1923.

State.	Production (bales of 500 pounds, gross weight).			Yield per acre.		Acreage.		Farm price per pound, Dec. 1.	
	1923	Census ginnings.							
		1922	5-year average 1917–1921.	1923	1922	1923	1922	1923	1922
	Bales.	*Bales.*	*Bales.*	*Pounds.*	*Pounds.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*
Virginia	50,000	26,515	20,778	325	230	73,000	55,000	32.0	23.0
North Carolina	1,020,000	851,640	809,405	290	250	1,678,000	1,625,000	30.8	24.5
South Carolina	795,000	492,535	1,322,114	187	123	2,030,000	1,912,000	32.0	24.3
Georgia	590,000	714,998	1,573,612	82	100	3,433,000	3,418,000	32.0	23.9
Florida	12,000	25,021	22,443	40	102	143,000	118,000	28.8	23.0
Alabama	600,000	823,498	654,934	91	142	3,149,000	2,771,000	31.8	24.0
Mississippi	615,000	989,273	960,163	89	157	3,298,000	3,014,000	32.5	24.1
Louisiana	365,000	343,274	438,130	125	144	1,395,000	1,140,000	30.3	24.0
Texas	4,290,000	3,221,891	3,092,869	146	130	14,081,000	11,874,000	30.4	23.5
Arkansas	620,000	1,011,457	971,390	97	173	3,054,000	2,799,000	31.9	23.6
Tennessee	220,000	390,994	301,460	90	190	1,167,000	985,000	32.0	24.5
Missouri	115,000	149,000	67,162	162	360	339,000	198,000	32.5	21.5
Oklahoma	620,000	627,419	873,936	90	103	3,295,000	2,915,000	29.6	23.0
California	[1] 49,000	[2] 28,243	58,115	277	188	85,000	67,000	32.0	26.0
Arizona	83,000	46,749	57,127	311	222	128,000	101,000	34.0	30.0
All other [3]	37,000	19,310	7,745	244	208	72,000	44,000	31.0	25.0
United States total	10,081,000	[2] 9,761,817	11,231,383	128.8	141.5	37,420,000	33,036,000	31.0	23.8

[1] About 41,108,000 pounds, equivalent to 86,000 bales additional, in Lower California (Old Mexico).
[2] Includes about 7,000 bales of the 58,000 bales grown in Lower California (Old Mexico).
[3] Including New Mexico.

Prices of Cotton and Cottonseed Received by Producers, 1919–1922.

Yearly Averages Based on Monthly Averages Weighted by Monthly Movement.

State.	Lint cotton, cents per pound, crop of—					Cottonseed per ton, crop of—				
	Averages 1914–1918.	1919	1920	1921	1922	Averages 1914–1918.	1919	1920	1921	1922
United States	18.34	35.36	15.84	16.90	22.85	$46.68	$67.18	$22.92	$29.72	$34.70
North Carolina	18.46	35.44	14.74	17.02	24.35	49.34	74.30	25.72	33.19	41.26
South Carolina	18.48	36.36	16.00	17.33	24.55	46.29	74.98	23.09	34.45	42.34
Georgia	27.30	35.87	16.92	17.27	23.73	45.39	75.08	26.50	31.73	39.51
Florida	18.83	36.08	17.84	16.34	20.94	49.96	66.80	28.10	31.83	32.03
Alabama	18.06	34.94	15.92	16.88	23.28	45.50	72.85	26.67	30.70	36.37
Mississippi	18.58	36.18	15.44	17.03	23.51	47.39	65.80	24.10	28.62	34.03
Louisiana	18.05	36.02	15.80	15.84	22.50	46.46	65.57	26.08	27.42	31.33
Texas	18.32	34.40	17.31	16.76	21.90	49.19	59.93	21.38	28.05	31.66
Arkansas	17.63	35.28	13.69	17.23	23.26	44.19	63.30	22.96	28.21	32.99
Tennessee	18.61	34.05	13.95	16.43	23.14	49.95	66.73	25.49	30.49	38.40
Missouri	18.22	31.96	13.42	15.70	21.44	47.07	72.68	22.71	31.41	36.66
Oklahoma	18.07	35.98	12.78	16.42	21.51	23.38	60.02	18.88	24.78	31.48

Livestock - Meats - Wool

Prices of All Classes Fluctuate.

Fluctuations in prices of all classes of livestock featured trade at market centers during the week December 10–15. Liberal receipts as well as the approaching holidays were the important factors bearing on price changes.

Another deluge of hogs during the first three days of the week served to further depress values and midweek found prices at pre-war levels. Light weight steers and yearlings suitable for Christmas trade gained some price ground, but heavy beeves and medium weight steers of lower grades were neglected even at reduced prices. Early gains in fat lamb values were more than offset by subsequent declines, but, as was the case in the cattle trade, highly finished handy weights were in good demand as contrasted with the very limited inquiry for heavy and half-fat kinds.

The swine trade held the center of the stage at practically all markets. On Wednesday's closing market at Chicago best heavy weight butchers at $6.75 were as low as at any time during the current year and in fact the average cost of packer and shipper droves at $6.46 was the lowest since December, 1915. In the decline packing sows and light lights did not suffer as much as the heavy and medium weight butchers, and as a result the spread was perceptibly narrowed, packing sows and lights selling within 35¢–40¢ of the top. Consumption of lard is holding up well. This fact has helped to prevent packing grades from declining as much as butcher hogs. However, prices prevailing at the low time proved to be a poor barometer of the underlying trade situation, as later in the week there was considerable recovery at all principal markets. In fact throughout the season thus far any material curtailment of receipts has been a signal for sharp advances. This condition was well illustrated by the fact that during the two days following the midweek slump practically all grades of hogs advanced 50¢–60¢, which placed values above the previous week's close. This strength was due largely to a broad outlet for pork products and an active demand from eastern shippers. In view of the liberal marketings of hogs which have occurred during the past few months many observers have been led to believe that although the ratio of corn to hogs at present is strongly in favor of corn, continued dumping of "to-day's" swine crop is likely to materially change this ratio before the spring crop of porkers can possibly reach market centers.

Continued deference to light and handyweight finished killing cattle with discrimination against heavy steers and common and medium slaughter kinds has served to further widen the spread between the two classes until at present Chicago's price differential between best heavy steers and comparable grades of yearlings amounts to $1 or more. Best weighty offerings averaging 1,500 lbs. or better cashed during the week at $11.85 with yearlings of comparable quality at $13.25. Other classes suitable for slaughter followed the general trend of weighty steers. Exceptionally heavy runs of stockers and feeders at most markets turned prices on such kinds generally downward.

Burdensome receipts of sheep and lambs at the 10 principal markets had their usual bearish effect and around midweek buyers began to take their innings. Early gains were more than wiped out and although best grades of fat lambs were least affected, even these dropped 25¢ below the close a week earlier. Aged sheep on the other hand were in limited supply and with a broad outlet principally due to lower temperatures about steady prices were maintained.

Government reports released December 13 showed an increase of 210,000 lambs on feed in the Corn Belt compared with holdings a year ago, while the intermountain region showed practically no change in this respect. As a rule, feeding lambs which went to the country from the Chicago market, especially during early part of the range season, averaged heavier in weight than a year ago, which fact leads to the belief that heavy marketward movements may be expected during the next four months. Discrimination against overweight as well as avoidance of the marketward movement from farther west will probably send Corn Belt lambs to market early regardless of the prevailing prices. At the present time the percentage of fat lambs selling at or below $13 is far in excess of those selling above that figure and that fact considered in connection with the prices at which they went out leads to the conclusion that some of the fed lambs already marketed have shown a net loss unless a liberal allowance be made for increased soil fertility and for clearing up otherwise useless feed and roughage.

Increasing numbers of clipped lambs are appearing in the offerings, marked strength in the wool market probably being the main reason for this condition. Because of this high fleece value shorn lambs sold at sharp discounts compared with wooled stock. Many feeders believe, however, that shearing facilitates feeding operations and are clipping their lambs mainly for this reason, although not altogether losing sight of the possibility of a higher wool market in the future. Feeders of aged sheep have as a rule fared better thus far than the lamb finishers. Many fat ewes on their return from the country have netted generous profits.

Receipts, Shipments, and Local Slaughter.

Week of December 10–15, 1923, with Comparisons.

Market.	Cattle and calves.[1]			Hogs.			Sheep.		
	Receipts.	Shipments.	Local slaughter.	Receipts.	Shipments.	Local slaughter.	Receipts.	Shipments.	Local slaughter.
Chicago	101,319	30,294	71,025	271,646	62,700	208,946	107,641	35,240	72,401
Denver [2]	20,437	16,525	16,525	10,356	1,071	9,086	18,915	14,124	3,540
East St. Louis	30,858	11,224	11,224	94,658	48,847	47,526	10,021	1,405	7,134
Fort Worth [2]	28,556	7,180	7,180	12,202	1,135	10,264	1,660	358	1,275
Indianapolis	12,666	6,402	6,402	83,369	32,768	52,520	2,912	1,512	1,357
Kansas City	70,326	31,415	31,415	82,404	24,733	57,430	27,194	7,163	18,831
Oklahoma City	8,133	1,223	1,223	9,476	2,227	8,465	10	.....	10
Omaha	44,164	18,098	18,098	73,704	6,647	60,381	55,192	14,840	36,630
St. Joseph [2]	14,476	4,211	4,211	54,575	9,292	41,345	20,188	1,715	18,462
St. Paul [2]	31,473	11,410	11,410	118,342	33,695	87,109	10,571	1,584	7,266
Sioux City	18,348	10,679	6,503	62,130	19,614	36,696	5,854	1,256	4,504
Wichita [2]	9,524	5,197	5,197	16,090	1,595	14,625	1,154	577	561
Total	390,280	153,858	217,611	889,342	244,324	637,793	261,312	79,774	171,971
Total Dec. 10–15, 1923	352,828	141,797	193,480	986,212	222,615	733,537	220,362	73,974	147,431
Total Dec. 11–16, 1922	357,375	144,228	206,303	877,590	186,619	678,134	237,986	74,391	151,030

[1] Movement of calves Dec. 10–15, 1923: Receipts 66,540; Shipments 18,990; local slaughter 49,828.
[2] Week ending Friday, Dec. 14.

Daily Average Weight and Cost of Hogs.

Week of December 10–15, 1923, with Comparisons.

	Chicago.		East St. Louis.		Fort Worth.		Kansas City.		Omaha.		St. Paul.	
	Wt.	Cost.	Wt.	Cost.	Wt.	Cost.	Wt.	Cost.	Wt.	Cost.	Wt.	Cost.
	Lbs.	Per 100 lbs.	Lbs.	Per 100 lbs.	Lbs.	Per 100 lbs.	Lbs.	Per 100 lbs.	Lbs.	Per 100 lbs.	Lbs.	Per 100 lbs.
Monday	236	$6.66	214	$6.57	184	$6.78	226	$6.41	261	$6.50	211	$6.13
Tuesday	236	6.59	211	6.44	188	6.79	213	6.36	248	6.30	219	6.16
Wednesday	227	6.46	207	6.51	184	6.67	222	6.34	250	6.27	216	6.21
Thursday	228	6.70	200	6.81	185	6.79	226	6.53	257	6.45	213	6.45
Friday	226	6.98	217	7.23	175	6.82	227	6.69	256	6.64	211	6.62
Saturday	238	6.96	217	7.23	153	6.58	218	6.78	247	6.65	213	6.65
Average:												
Dec. 10–15, 1923	232	6.67	208	6.69	181	6.78	220	6.50	250	6.47	214	6.29
Dec. 3–8, 1923	232	6.99	203	6.92	187	7.22	215	6.63	253	6.56	211	6.46
Dec. 11–16, 1922	233	8.10	204	8.30	.....	.....	209	7.93	237	7.77	209	7.85

The above prices are computed on packer and shipper purchases.

Beef Steers Sold Out of First Hands for Slaughter at Chicago.

Week December 10–15, 1923, with Comparisons.

Grade.	Number of head.			Per cent of total by grades.			Average weight (pounds).			Average price per 100 pounds.		
	Week Dec. 10–15, 1923.	Week Dec. 3–8, 1923.	Week Dec. 11–16, 1922.	W'k Dec. 10–15, 1923.	W'k Dec. 3–8, 1923.	W'k Dec. 11–16, 1922.	W'k Dec. 10–15, 1923.	W'k Dec. 3–8, 1923.	W'k Dec. 11–16, 1922.	Week Dec. 10–15, 1923.	Week Dec. 3–8, 1923.	Week Dec. 11–16, 1922.
Choice and prime	1,173	2,183	347	3.9	8.5	1.1	1,111	1,183	1,111	$11.96	$11.70	$13.07
Good	5,082	5,578	4,843	16.7	21.8	15.2	1,252	1,266	1,170	10.32	10.42	10.35
Medium	15,462	11,435	23,597	51.0	44.8	73.8	1,147	1,110	1,096	8.97	9.02	8.72
Common	8,622	6,356	3,171	28.4	24.9	9.9	939	927	938	7.38	7.30	6.85
Total	30,339	25,552	31,958	100.0	100.0	100.0	1,104	1,105	1,092	8.96	9.26	8.87

Average Prices of Livestock, Week of December 10–15, 1923, with Comparisons.

[In dollars per 100 pounds.]

Kind and grade.	Chicago.				East St. Louis.				Fort Worth.[1]		Kansas City.				Omaha.				South St. Paul.			
	Dec. 10–15, 1922.	Dec. 3–8, 1923.	Dec. 11–16, 1922.	3-year average.[2]	Dec. 10–15, 1923.	Dec. 3–8, 1923.	Dec. 11–16, 1922.	3-year average.[2]	Dec. 10–15, 1923.	Dec. 3–8, 1923.	Dec. 10–15, 1923.	Dec. 3–8, 1923.	Dec. 11–16, 1922.	3-year average.[2]	Dec. 10–15, 1923.	Dec. 3–8, 1923.	Dec. 11–16, 1922.	3-year average.[2]	Dec. 10–15, 1923.	Dec. 3–8, 1923.	Dec. 11–16, 1922.	3-year average.[2]
Cattle.																						
Slaughter cattle and calves:																						
Steers (1,100 lbs. up)—																						
Choice and prime	12.05	11.98	12.62	12.07	11.65	11.75	12.38	11.45	.....	.....	11.38	11.28	12.14	11.33	11.48	11.58	11.75	11.37	11.00	10.92	.....	.....
Good	10.58	10.66	10.84	10.38	10.46	10.62	10.42	9.71	8.05	7.90	9.92	9.84	10.21	9.59	9.95	10.04	9.68	9.63	9.68	9.60	.....	.....
Medium	9.05	9.20	8.70	8.52	8.51	8.70	8.18	7.72	6.80	6.75	8.22	8.26	8.18	7.80	8.26	8.32	7.65	7.74	8.00	7.92	7.90	7.81
Common	6.99	6.98	6.64	6.83	6.62	6.70	6.22	6.33	5.30	5.25	6.42	6.44	6.16	6.31	6.34	6.38	5.95	6.13	6.00	6.00	6.10	6.13
Steers (1,100 lbs. down)—																						
Choice and prime	12.31	12.09	12.56	12.35	11.80	11.88	12.38	11.90	.....	.....	11.50	11.40	11.93	11.58	11.62	11.65	11.62	11.53	11.00	10.92	.....	.....
Good	10.88	10.82	10.72	10.29	10.52	10.75	10.42	9.87	7.92	7.88	10.05	9.96	9.92	9.46	10.09	10.20	9.58	9.55	9.68	9.60	.....	.....
Medium	9.24	9.26	8.60	8.26	8.62	8.80	8.18	7.67	6.55	6.50	8.35	8.38	7.84	7.34	8.33	8.38	7.55	7.34	7.92	7.80	7.90	7.79
Common	6.68	6.90	6.49	6.47	6.25	6.40	6.22	5.97	5.05	5.00	6.18	6.19	5.82	5.75	6.14	6.12	5.58	5.67	5.68	5.62	5.98	5.95
Canner and cutter	4.28	4.34	3.38	3.66	4.12	4.12	3.12	3.37	3.18	3.12	4.00	4.00	3.00	3.26	4.00	4.00	3.22	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.00	3.20
Light yearling steers and heifers—																						
Good and prime (800 lbs. down)[3]	11.28	11.05	.....	.....	10.65	10.80	.....	.....	8.42	8.38	10.12	10.02	.....	.....	10.25	10.25	.....	.....	10.00	10.00	.....	.....
Heifers—																						
Good and choice (850 lbs. up)	9.80	9.52			8.32	8.58			5.70	5.68	8.12	7.78			8.58	8.52			8.32	8.42		
Common and medium (all weights)	6.36	6.40	[4]7.66	7.08	5.25	5.25	[4]7.12	7.59	3.92	3.92	5.20	4.95	[4]6.16	6.37	5.58	5.58	[4]6.50	6.58	5.40	5.50	[4]6.12	6.29
Cows—																						
Good and choice	6.74	6.92			5.80	5.90			4.68	4.78	5.88	5.88			5.82	5.84			6.15	6.25		
Common and medium	4.48	4.66	[4]5.77	5.78	4.00	4.18	[4]5.10	5.24	3.42	3.52	3.88	3.88	[4]4.79	4.97	4.27	4.10	[4]4.95	5.14	3.85	4.05	[4]5.05	5.20
Canner and cutter	2.80	2.90	2.89	3.01	2.57	2.82	2.88	2.96	2.26	2.42	2.62	2.58	2.75	2.96	3.08	2.94	2.92	3.04	2.45	2.55	2.62	2.70
Bulls—																						
Good and choice, (beef yearlings excluded)[3]	5.81	5.70	.....	.....	5.42	5.62	.....	.....	4.12	4.10	4.92	4.96	.....	.....	5.14	5.14	.....	.....	4.50	4.50	.....	.....
Canner to medium (canner and bologna)[3]	4.07	4.06	.....	.....	3.18	3.38	.....	.....	2.75	2.70	3.18	3.18	.....	.....	3.21	3.06	.....	.....	3.30	3.20	.....	.....
Calves—																						
Medium to choice (190 lbs. down)	8.95	8.85			8.55	8.75			6.30	6.30	7.82	7.75			8.15	8.08			6.90	6.85		
Medium to choice (190–260 lbs.)	7.92	7.88	[5]9.22	8.89	6.65	6.65	[5]7.95	8.14	6.00	6.05	6.98	6.85	[5]7.50	7.58	6.75	6.58	[5]8.02	8.21	6.10	6.15	[5]6.40	6.72
Medium to choice (260 lbs. up)	6.15	6.10	[6]5.25	5.70	6.00	5.90	[6]5.68	6.01	5.65	5.65	5.75	5.45	[6]5.25	5.14	5.98	6.00	[6]5.32	5.59	5.05	5.25	[6]4.75	4.47
Cull and common (190 lbs. down)[3]	6.22	6.18	.....	.....	4.62	4.40	.....	.....	3.78	3.68	4.50	4.40	.....	.....	5.40	5.10	.....	.....	4.50	4.50	.....	.....
Cull and common (190 lbs. up)[3]	4.85	4.45	.....	.....	3.12	3.02	.....	.....	3.38	3.30	3.25	3.25	.....	.....	3.82	3.75	.....	.....	3.10	3.00	.....	.....
Feeder and stocker cattle and calves:																						
Steers, common-choice (750 lbs. up)[7]	6.62	6.63	6.66	6.78	5.88	5.88	6.32	6.38	5.30	5.20	6.52	6.60	6.30	6.76	6.54	6.60	6.44	6.54	5.12	5.12	5.68	5.94
Steers, common-choice (750 lbs. down)[8]	5.98	6.15	6.20	5.87	5.50	5.50	5.38	5.46	5.05	4.95	6.02	6.12	5.86	5.71	6.17	6.22	6.08	5.74	4.62	4.62	5.00	5.33
Steers, inferior, (all weights)[8]	3.80	4.00	.....	.....	3.62	3.62	.....	.....	3.02	3.00	3.75	3.75	.....	.....	3.80	3.85	.....	.....	2.95	3.00	.....	.....
Cows and heifers, common-choice	4.03	4.03	4.20	4.45	3.50	3.50	3.88	4.12	3.00	2.90	4.00	3.90	3.88	4.20	3.93	3.95	4.20	4.48	3.38	3.38	3.62	3.83
Calves, common-choice[9]	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5.79	5.63	4.78	4.58	5.60	5.62	5.88	5.56	5.45	5.50	6.26	5.72	4.75	4.75	.....	.....
Hogs.																						
Top (highest price, not average)	7.25	7.40	8.55	9.65	7.45	7.40	8.65	9.95	7.40	7.70	7.09	7.00	8.35	9.65	6.90	6.95	8.25	9.60	6.75	6.75	8.10	9.15
Bulk of sales	6.72	6.93	8.09	8.04	6.76	6.92	8.28	8.23	6.95	7.24	6.49	6.60	7.99	7.79	6.44	6.48	7.89	7.59	6.35	6.39	7.81	7.63
Heavy weight (250–350 lbs.) medium-choice	6.88	7.12	8.12	8.01	6.91	7.04	8.11	8.03	7.02	7.23	6.62	6.75	7.98	7.74	6.59	6.63	7.86	7.60	6.39	6.48	7.74	7.51
Medium weight (200–250 lbs.) medium-choice	6.82	7.05	8.16	8.07	6.91	7.03	8.23	8.19	7.05	7.29	6.58	6.68	8.04	7.84	6.57	6.67	7.88	7.71	6.39	6.47	7.85	7.62
Light weight (160–200 lbs.) common-choice	6.58	6.81	8.21	8.17	6.67	6.74	8.26	8.25	6.70	6.84	6.15	6.23	7.96	7.79	6.22	6.47	7.78	7.66	6.35	6.42	7.88	7.76
Light lights (130–160 lbs.) common-choice	6.31	6.43	8.20	8.24	6.39	6.40	8.27	8.33	6.17	6.29	5.86	5.94	7.88	7.72	.....	.....	.....	.....	6.24	6.21	7.90	7.87
Packing hogs:																						
Smooth	6.58	6.70	7.71	7.54	6.17	6.31	7.33	7.17	6.04	6.17	6.17	6.27	7.38	7.06	6.30	6.22	7.29	6.99	5.92	6.00	7.30	7.14
Rough	6.37	6.48	7.45	7.23	5.96	6.14	7.06	6.84	5.15	5.17	5.94	6.07	7.18	6.72	6.12	5.97	7.04	6.67	5.74	5.88	7.12	6.93
Slaughter pigs (130 lbs. down) medium-choice	5.87	5.88	8.16	8.18	6.18	6.08	8.06	8.14	5.40	5.57	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5.77	5.71	8.05	[10]7.65
Feeder and stocker pigs (70–130 lbs.) common-choice	.....	.....	.....	.....	5.86	5.64	7.85	[11]8.38	.....	4.29	5.00	5.00	7.09	7.31	4.96	5.04	7.23	7.32	5.02	4.98	8.02	7.76
Sheep and lambs.																						
Slaughter sheep and lambs:																						
Lambs—																						
Light and handy weight (84 lbs. down) medium-prime	12.14	12.12	14.42	11.98	11.94	11.77	14.17	11.41	.....	.....	11.69	11.54	14.18	11.34	11.72	11.43	14.10	11.39	11.44	11.35	13.79	11.07
All weights, cull and common	9.92	10.02	11.12	9.49	9.48	9.32	11.42	8.79	.....	.....	9.45	9.42	11.15	8.59	9.64	9.49	11.28	9.10	9.20	9.15	10.62	8.33
Yearling wethers, medium-prime	9.86	9.55	11.30	9.42	9.42	9.32	11.18	9.01	8.50	8.50	9.35	9.25	10.88	8.83	9.50	9.35	10.82	8.61	9.02	8.90	10.70	8.59
Wethers (2 years old and over) medium-prime	7.58	7.35	7.98	6.51	6.50	6.50	7.88	6.38	6.12	6.12	6.80	6.80	7.50	6.04	7.12	7.12	7.72	6.08	6.88	6.75	7.50	6.01
Ewes, common-choice[3]	6.08	5.72	.....	.....	5.00	5.00	.....	.....	4.38	4.38	5.12	5.00	.....	.....	5.63	5.26	.....	.....	5.25	5.05	.....	.....
Ewes, canner and cull[3]	3.00	2.68	.....	.....	2.25	2.25	.....	.....	1.88	1.88	2.35	2.25	.....	.....	2.72	2.62	.....	.....	2.45	2.25	.....	.....
Feeding sheep and lambs:																						
Feeding lambs, medium-choice	11.82	11.88	13.75	11.08	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13.20	9.89	11.34	11.20	13.43	10.30	11.25	11.25	.....	.....

Note.—Classification of live stock changed July 2, 1923.

[1] Fort Worth began reporting Jan. 15, 1923.
[2] Based on average prices for the following weeks: Dec. 13–18, 1920; Dec. 12–17, 1921; and Dec. 11–16, 1922.
[3] No comparable grade in former classification.
[4] Old classification combined common to choice; comparable figures are on that description.
[5] In old classification classed as light and medium weight.
[6] In old classification classed as heavy weight.
[7] Data previous to July, 1923, are averages of feeder steers, 1,000 and 750–1,000 lbs. in former classification.
[8] In old classification classed as stocker steers—common to choice.
[9] Data previous to July, 1923, are averages of stocker calves, good and choice and common and medium in former classification.
[10] Two-year average; does not include 1920 when prices were highest.
[11] Two-year average; does not include 1921 when prices were lowest.

Meat Trade Quiet.

(Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Chicago.)

Wholesale fresh meat trade was quiet both at eastern markets and Chicago during the week December 8–14. At eastern markets supplies of beef, lamb, and pork were only moderate, but showed more increase over the preceding week, while veal and mutton receipts were light. At Chicago fresh beef and veal supplies were somewhat lighter, lamb and mutton offerings normal, and those of fresh pork liberal. Prices at that market as a rule showed little change from the close of the preceding week, but at eastern centers beef, lamb, and mutton were weak to lower, while veal and fresh loins were firm to higher.

Beef.—The average quality of beef offered showed rather marked improvement. This fact worked to the detriment of choice steer beef, as buyers were able to supply their needs from the medium and good grades. There was a relative scarcity of common steer beef, which was decidedly to the advantage of the market for cow beef. Bulls were in very light supply everywhere. Demand for beef was moderate but buyers set pretty definite price limits for themselves and as a result price changes were generally slight. Chicago was practically steady and at eastern markets advances and declines were about evenly balanced.

Veal.—Receipts of veal were light at all points and a fair assortment of quality was offered. Demand was not brisk but limited offerings gave the market a firm appearance. At some markets advances of $1 were not unusual.

Lamb.—Offerings of lamb were fairly liberal and included a good many weighty carcasses. There was a moderate inquiry for handyweights but the general trend of prices was downward. Declines ranged from $1 to $2 per 100 pounds. Heavy carcasses were sharply discriminated against and sacrifice sales of that kind were rather common.

Mutton.—Under light receipts the mutton market opened steady to firm. At New York demand was sufficient to advance prices on medium and common $1 to $2. Elsewhere, however, trade was none too brisk and at Philadelphia declines of $1 to $3 were registered.

Pork.—Except at Chicago receipts of fresh pork loins were only moderate and consisted largely of the lighter weights. Trade was reasonably active and prices were generally $1 higher at New York and Philadelphia but steady at Boston. Chicago disposed of liberal supplies of loins at steady to 50¢ higher prices. Shoulder cuts were scarce but prices were barely steady.

Chicago Wholesale Prices of Cured Pork and Pork Products.[1]

Week of December 10–15, 1923, with Comparisons.

[In dollars per 100 pounds.]

Commodity.	Dec. 10–15, 1923.	Dec. 3–8, 1923.	Dec. 11–16, 1922.	3-year average.[2]
Hams No. 1, smoked, 14–16 lbs. average	22.50	22.62	22.00	24.08
Hams No. 2, smoked, 14–16 lbs. average	20.00	20.38	19.75	21.50
Picnics, smoked, 4–8 lbs. average	13.00	13.62	15.50	17.29
Bacon No. 1, 6–8 lbs, average	26.50	27.75	31.50	34.08
Bacon No. 2, 6–8 lbs. average	18.00	21.00	24.50	24.08
Bellies, dry salt, 14–16 lbs. average	13.50	13.50	17.62	16.46
Backs, dry salt, 14–16 lbs. average	14.50	14.60	13.38	13.75
Pure lard, tierces	14.88	14.88	13.62	14.25
Compound lard, tierces	14.38	14.62	12.50	12.21

[1] Based on average prices to retailers.
[2] Based on average prices for the following weeks: Dec. 13–18, 1920; Dec. 12–17, 1921; and Dec. 11–16, 1922.

German Farmers Given Concession in Russia.

A recently organized German-Russia agrarian company has taken over a concession of 650,000 acres of land located in the fertile Samara and Saratoff districts of the Volga, says the American trade commissioner at Berlin. The company has been granted its concession for 36 years and is obliged to have the entire area under cultivation in 4 years. German farmers will develop the area. At the end of the 36 years the company is obligated to deliver the land with all improvements and equipment to the Russian Government. The exploitation of minerals in the concession is reserved by the Russian Government.

Average Wholesale Prices of Western Dressed Fresh Meats.

Week of December 10–15, 1923, with Comparisons.

[In dollars per 100 pounds.]

Kind and grade.	Chicago.				New York.			
	Dec. 10–15, 1923.	Dec. 3–8, 1923.	Dec. 11–16, 1922.	Three-year average.[1]	Dec. 10–15, 1923.	Dec. 3–8, 1923.	Dec. 11–16, 1922.	Three-year average.[1]
Beef and Veal.								
Beef:								
Steer—								
Choice	18.75	18.75	18.05	19.92	19.40	20.00	19.60	[2] 19.10
Good	17.75	17.60	16.50	17.60	16.60	16.70	16.00	17.05
Medium	16.00	15.80	14.00	14.77	14.55	13.45	13.65	14.55
Common	12.50	12.20	11.00	11.30	12.75	11.60	10.40	12.22
Cow—								
Good	12.50	12.50	10.40	11.47	12.35	11.70	11.10	12.42
Medium	11.50	11.50	8.50	10.17	11.40	10.70	10.10	11.22
Common	9.00	9.00	7.50	8.83	10.40	8.95	9.30	[2] 9.90
Bull—								
Medium								
Common	7.50	7.15	6.12	7.68	8.12	7.88	6.75	8.83
Veal:								
Choice	16.50	16.90	16.70	16.90	20.50	18.40	18.60	20.69
Good	14.90	14.10	15.50	14.87	17.00	15.60	15.20	17.87
Medium	13.00	12.40	13.00	13.27	14.00	12.60	12.80	15.47
Common	10.50	9.90	9.50	10.47	11.75	9.60	11.00	[2] 11.20
Fresh Pork Cuts.								
Hams:								
12–16 lbs. average	15.50	15.00	17.00	[2] 16.35	16.00	16.00	19.00	[2] 19.50
Loins:								
8–10 lbs. average	12.50	12.90	15.80	17.97	16.50	15.20	16.60	21.17
10–12 lbs. average	11.90	11.90	15.20	17.17	15.50	14.05	16.20	20.17
12–14 lbs. average	10.70	10.90	14.25	15.88	14.50	13.20	15.40	19.00
14–16 lbs. average	9.90	9.90	13.50	14.60	14.00	12.70	14.90	17.80
16 lbs. and over	9.44	9.29	12.90	[2] 14.35	12.65	11.30	13.90	[2] 16.75
Shoulders:								
Skinned	9.20	9.50	13.05	13.75	11.10	10.90	13.40	14.70
Picnics—								
4–6 lbs. average	9.50	9.50	12.25	12.97	10.70	10.75		
6–8 lbs. average	8.50	8.50	11.75	12.30	9.50	9.60	11.50	13.20
Butts:								
Boston style	9.45	9.80	13.90	14.92	12.45	11.30	15.80	16.77
Spare ribs	7.40	8.00	11.55	[2] 12.55	9.00	9.00	14.00	[2] 14.00
Lamb and Mutton.								
Lamb:								
Choice	23.50	23.90	26.50	25.30	24.90	26.00	26.50	27.50
Good	21.90	22.60	24.50	23.30	23.90	25.00	24.50	25.67
Medium	19.90	20.40	22.50	21.20	22.40	23.00	22.50	24.07
Common	17.40	17.70	19.50	18.47	19.70	20.00	20.50	20.67
Mutton:								
Good	13.00	13.00	14.50	12.37	16.50	16.50	15.60	14.97
Medium	11.00	11.00	12.50	10.53	14.50	14.00	12.70	12.67
Common	8.50	8.50	8.50	7.87	12.50	11.50	9.50	[2] 9.25

[1] Based on average prices for the following weeks: Dec. 13–18, 1920; Dec. 12–17, 1921; and Dec. 11–16, 1922.
[2] Two-year average.

Wool Imports at Two Ports.

Imports of wool through the port of Philadelphia during the week Dec. 10–15 amounted to 1,168 bales, weighing 445,948 lbs., valued at $113,525. Imports through the port of Boston during the same week amounted to 1,792 bales and 344 sacks, weighing 670,317 lbs., valued at $207,063.

The limited number of cattle on hay feed in Nevada and apparently the whole West tributary to the Pacific coast markets has caused a decided upturn in values of beef steers since the latter part of November. This lack of sufficient supplies will probably force Pacific slaughterers to the intermountain markets and possibly to Denver, Kansas City, and Omaha before the 1924 California grass cattle are available.

Around the 1st of December fairly fat beef steers were selling at country points in Nevada at $7.50–$7.75 f. o. b. shipping point, which two weeks earlier were to be had at $6.50–$6.75. Furthermore some growers were holding out for $8 for steers averaging slightly better than 1,200 lbs. loaded on cars.

The recent demand for the small supply of fat cattle available has encouraged growers to the extent that considerable inquiry is being made at country points for half-fat cattle suitable for short feeding. This situation will undoubtedly hold the half-fat ordinary steers off the killer market, thus increasing the demand for fat steers and possibly tend to advance prices. The cattle situation on the west coast has changed almost overnight from a condition of oversupply to an actual scarcity.

Stocker and Feeder Shipments.

Week December 8–14, 1923, with Comparisons.

Origin and destination.	Cattle and calves.		Hogs.		Sheep.	
	Week Dec. 8–14, 1923.	Per cent of average of corresponding week, 1920, 1921, 1922.	Week Dec. 8–14, 1923.	Per cent of average of corresponding week, 1920, 1921, 1922.	Week Dec. 8–14, 1923.	Per cent. of average of corresponding week, 1920, 1921, 1922.
Market origin:						
Chicago	10,086	115.6			11,893	168.5
Denver	13,396	251.4	1,502	167.3	6,407	36.6
East St. Louis	5,756	139.4	133	16.5		
Fort Worth	3,312	81.8	453	87.6	358	155.6
Indianapolis	960	101.3	103	98.1	12	27.3
Kansas City	23,504	146.6	1,824	87.4	5,323	60.8
Oklahoma City	1,163	68.0				
Omaha	15,329	156.3	135		4,919	86.3
St. Joseph	3,413	150.8	269	218.7	1,715	84.2
St. Paul	8,393	149.0	5,709	90.2	1,161	70.7
Sioux City	8,597	204.2			285	38.3
Wichita	3,912	152.9	1,208		294	73.5
Total	97,821	157.1	11,336	103.1	32,367	80.4
State destination:						
California	57	70.4	1,100	349.2	22	91.7
Colorado	7,401	397.9	829	320.1	5,794	83.9
Illinois	11,746	128.2	1,660	122.7	5,762	147.1
Indiana	2,879	87.2	103	30.1	418	134.8
Iowa	17,173	155.2	3,024	157.8	1,834	60.7
Kansas	15,685	168.7	359	90.6	4,182	210.0
Kentucky	35	12.0				
Louisiana	35					
Maryland	164	154.7				
Michigan	588	68.7			2,284	59.3
Minnesota	878	68.0	1,393	262.3	344	32.9
Missouri	12,604	191.5	463	44.1	2,000	34.7
Nebraska	20,180	246.2	929		4,569	51.6
New Jersey	24	120.0	142	6.7		
New York	83	69.7			1,216	380.0
North Dakota	44	44.0			125	
Ohio	1,448	62.3			21	1.1
Oklahoma	1,442	58.6	115	38.6	24	41.4
Pennsylvania	1,007	78.0	240	131.1		
South Dakota	1,214	136.2			467	222.4
Tennessee	26	30.2				
Texas	2,765	164.9	979	263.9	358	416.3
Virginia	10	6.0				
West Virginia	18	12.8				
Wisconsin	279	57.4			2,931	196.2
Wyoming	28	13.0			16	
Exports	8	133.3				
Total	97,821	157.1	11,336	103.1	32,367	80.4

Season Comparisons of Stocker and Feeder Shipments.

	Cattle and calves.	Hogs.	Sheep.
July 1, 1923, to Dec. 14, 1923	2,609,620	341,386	2,902,951
Same period one year ago	2,804,798	250,031	2,487,139
Same period two years ago	1,845,720	114,431	1,850,326
Same period three years ago	1,802,931	167,884	2,365,662
Current period as per cent of average of three previous periods	121.3	192.4	129.9

Weights and Prices of Stocker and Feeder Steers at Chicago.

Week of December 10–15, 1923, with Comparisons.

Weight range.	Number of head.			Per cent of total by weight ranges.			Average weight (pounds).			Average price per 100 pounds.		
	Week Dec. 10–15, 1923.	Week Dec. 3–8, 1923.	Week Dec. 11–16, 1922.	Week Dec. 10–15, 1923.	Week Dec. 3–8, 1923.	Week Dec. 11–16, 1922.	Week Dec. 10–15, 1923.	Week Dec. 3–8, 1923.	Week Dec. 11–16, 1922.	Week Dec. 10–15, 1923.	Week Dec. 3–8, 1923.	Week Dec. 11–16, 1922.
1,001 lbs. up	270	330	480	4.0	5.5	9.0	1,030	1,057	1,061	$6.50	$6.47	$6.72
901–1,000 lbs	953	1,084	702	14.2	18.3	13.1	948	943	933	6.35	6.43	6.57
801–900 lbs	1,916	973	1,418	28.5	16.4	26.5	849	854	836	6.22	6.59	6.16
701–800 lbs	1,495	1,193	1,086	22.3	20.1	20.3	758	761	742	6.02	5.98	6.23
700 lbs. down	2,080	2,355	1,663	31.0	39.7	31.1	600	599	586	5.64	5.58	6.31
Total	6,714	5,935	5,349	100.0	100.0	100.0	773	762	772	6.07	6.11	6.34

Dairy and Poultry

Butter Market Weakens Gradually.

There was a slow but gradual movement of the butter market toward a weaker position during the week December 10–15. So slow was this movement and so gradual was the change that many dealers, particularly in Chicago, were reluctant to believe that the market was anything but fundamentally firm. In spite of the confidence, however, stocks failed to move readily and far from being firm enough to warrant advances, the market in New York and Philadelphia gradually slipped to a lower level. At Boston and Chicago there was no change in the price of top scores up until late in the week, but the tendency was toward declines rather than advances, both because of the actual condition of the market and the depressing influence of the New York and Philadelphia markets.

A careful examination of the market reveals quite clearly the causes for this unsettled and easy condition of the market. Reviewing the demand side first, there is very little to indicate strength. Continued sluggishness or lack of activity on the wholesale market indicate more clearly than anything else that the consumptive demand is not large. It is true that the wholesale markets may be temporarily quiet without a corresponding decrease in the demand from the consumer, but when the large buyers hold off for days and weeks at a time, restricted retail outlets are usually quite clearly indicated.

It is not necessary, however, to depend entirely on the activity of the wholesale markets to get information regarding the consumptive demand. Chain store operators and others who have large retail outlets quite generally complain of the small needs of the consumer. Thus, while the decrease in the consumers' demands was probably not large it was a factor in giving the market an easier appearance.

PRODUCTION INCREASING.

On the supply side there were changes which while equally small and gradual were no less certain. Production reports which became available during the week under review all indicated a small increase in the make. Then there were the reports from receivers. These quite generally agreed that the size of individual shipments was increasing. If more evidence that there was an increase in the make was needed there were the receipts at the four large markets which showed a gradual increase. It must be remembered, however, that the receipts are not an accurate guide of production at this time of the year, for there is no way of knowing what percentage of storage butter they contain. This, however, does not prevent the conclusion that the make after reaching a low point late in November, began to show a gradual increase early in December.

The condition of the wholesale markets indicated that the increase in the make in relation to the demand was sufficiently large to be of importance. Trading stocks during the week under review, while not greatly excessive, were somewhat larger than during the week before. Dealers experienced more difficulty in keeping their floors clean and none, in spite of confidence noted in some quarters, were willing to carry over a large surplus. This was partly due to the poor keeping quality of receipts, but in the main to an uncertainty as to the future of the market. Buyers were equally cautious, operating on a hand-to-mouth basis. Some of the trade expected an improvement in the demand due to the holidays, but did not lay in additional supplies.

The market on fancy and cheap butter was relatively firmest, due to the moderate supply of these classes and the strength of this part of the market probably did much to prevent declines. The medium grades on the other hand, were in liberal supply and hard to move. Foreign butter was partly responsible for this. Much of this, including Danish, Canadian, New Zealand, Argentine, and Siberian was offered at attractive prices compared with domestic, and with the exception of the best Danish, the foreign butter competed mainly with the medium grades of domestic.

Arrivals of foreign butter at New York during the week amounted to 1,252 casks of Danish, 3,248 boxes of Argentine, 500 boxes of Irish, and 118,140 pounds of Canadian. No Canadian arrivals were reported at Chicago. In addition to this, 5,000 casks of Danish were reported on the water. At the close of the week Danish future shipments was offered at 43½–44¢ c. i. f. and some purchases were reported at or near that figure.

Lower Prices Feature Cheese Markets.

The weak unsettled feeling so apparent at all markets at the close of the previous week was reflected in a reduction in prices at Plymouth on all styles except Twins on Monday of the week ending December 15. The advance of ½¢ on Twins evidently did not depict the actual condition of the Twin market throughout the entire week at primary markets. The tone on this style was characterized as sick and the only sales consummated were at prices said to be below the actual cost. Declines on other styles were evidently not sharp enough to suit many dealers because, for example, it was reported that some dealers refused to pay factories for Longhorns on the basis of the settlement price on the Farmers Call Board as is the usual basis of buying this style, but insisted on buying on the basis of the settlement price established on the Wisconsin Cheese Exchange, where Longhorns were ½¢ lower. Further evidence of weakness and effort on the part of country dealers to reduce their stocks was the fact that liberal concessions were made on the large blocks of goods. The influence of the declines in producing centers was felt at distributing points and declines ranging from ¼ to 1¢ were registered at all markets on all styles except Twins at Chicago. This style at the latter point remained unchanged as it was generally conceded that reduction in asking prices would not stimulate the movement of the more or less limited supply of fresh Twins now being carried on hand. However, as was the case on all other styles, buyers would have been able to obtain liberal concessions if they had shown interest in sizeable lots. Certain styles of held cheese, namely Flats, Twins, and Longhorns at New York and Boston, of which the supply was ample and the movement limited, shared in the declines with fresh goods.

In conformity with the opinions current at the close of the previous week the declines registered did not improve the demand for cheese. A quiet week was anticipated but buying interest was even quieter than was expected and considerably below normal at all markets. Fresh cheese moved only in a small way and orders received were few and unsatisfactory. Occasionally a dealer at distributing markets was fortunate to move a good sized block of held cheese, but only because it just suited the buyers quality preference.

Wholesale Prices of Butter and Cheese.

December 10–15, 1923, with Comparisons.

92 Score Creamery Butter. (Cents per lb.)

	New York.	Chicago.	Philadelphia.	Boston.	San Francisco.
Monday	55	53	55	53	47¾
Tuesday	55	53	55½	53	47¾
Wednesday	54½	53	55	53	47¾
Thursday	54	53	54½	53	47¾
Friday	54	53	54½	53	47¾
Saturday	54	53½	54½	53	47¾
Average:					
Dec. 10–15, 1923	54.42	53.08	54.83	53.0	47.75
Dec. 3–8, 1923	54.75	53.25	55.33	53.0	48.58
Dec. 11–16, 1922	54.50	53.33	55.50	54.00	47.46

American Cheese (No. 1 Fresh Twins.) (Cents per lb.)

	New York.[1]	Chicago.	Boston.	San Francisco.[1]	Wisconsin.
Monday	23½–25	21½–22	25½–26	23¾	.....
Tuesday	23½–25	21½–22	25½–26	23	.....
Wednesday	23½–25	21½–22	25 –26	23½	20
Thursday	23½–25	21½–22	24 –25½	23½	22½
Friday	22¾–25	21½–22	24 –25½	23½	21½
Saturday	22½–25	21½–22	24 –25½	23½	.....
Average:					
Dec. 10–15, 1923	24.13	21.75	25.21	23.46	21.46
Dec. 3–8, 1923	24.33	21.75	25.83	24.21	21.97
Dec. 11–16, 1922	27.42	26.69	27.50	21.71	26.58

1 Flats.

Wholesale Prices of Centralized Butter (90 Score) at Chicago.

	(Cents per lb.)		(Cents per lb.)
Monday	48¾	Friday	49½
Tuesday	49	Saturday	49½
Wednesday	49		
Thursday	49	Average	49.13

Movement of Dairy Products at Five Markets.

(New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston and San Francisco.)

	Dec. 10–15, 1923.	Dec. 3–8, 1923.	Dec. 11–16, 1922.
Butter.	*Pounds.*	*Pounds.*	*Pounds.*
Receipts for week	10,086,115	9,411,613	9,586,110
Receipts since January 1	638,122,947	628,036,832	618,922,402
Put into cold storage	919,262	757,000	830,876
Withdrawn from cold storage	3,132,298	3,721,871	4,152,746
Change during week	−2,213,036	−2,964,871	−3,321,870
Total holdings	19,945,111	22,158,147	19,193,868
Cheese.			
Receipts for week	3,348,613	2,795,508	3,492,610
Receipts since January 1	212,631,107	209,282,494	193,902,622
Put into cold storage	1,305,994	809,545	415,269
Withdrawn from cold storage	1,501,125	1,387,167	1,048,308
Change during week	−195,131	−577,622	−633,039
Total holdings	20,020,656	20,215,787	12,444,769
Dressed poultry.			
Receipts for week	14,679,057	9,776,711	13,375,988
Receipts since January 1	291,879,477	277,200,420	235,516,357
Put into cold storage	6,100,918	7,844,696	6,950,418
Withdrawn from cold storage	1,739,867	1,426,240	2,070,869
Change during week	+4,361,051	+6,418,456	+4,879,549
Total holdings	53,745,423	49,384,372	48,122,817
Eggs.	*Cases.*	*Cases.*	*Cases.*
Receipts for week	136,848	119,904	109,213
Receipts since January 1	16,404,224	16,267,376	15,793,854
Put into cold storage	4,447	5,248	3,120
Withdrawn from cold storage	210,294	250,901	268,454
Change during week	−205,847	−245,653	−265,334
Total holdings	1,613,218	1,819,065	1,283,638

Retail Prices of Special Milk, Cream, and Buttermilk.

Cities.	Special milk, per quart.	Certified milk, per quart.	Light cream (18–25% B. F.), per half pint.	Cultured buttermilk, per quart.
	Cents.	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*
Boston	18½	26	.....	10
New York	18	27–28	29	24
Philadelphia	15	30–34	.....	12
Pittsburgh	.....	25	.....	11
Cincinnati	17–19	26	15	.....
Chicago	17–23	25	16	10–24
Minneapolis	.....	23	14–15	.....
St. Louis	18	25	17	10
Washington	18	30	18–20	15
Jacksonville	22–25	.....	20–25	11
New Orleans	19	30	17	13
Memphis	.....	.....	15	.....
Portland	.....	20–21	15	12
San Francisco	.....	25	18	14
Average of above cities	18.66	26.25	18	13.25

Prices Paid Producers at Country Points[1] for Standard or Grade B Milk (3.5% Butterfat).

Section.	Number of local markets.	Range of prices per 100 lbs.	Average price.	Comparison of prices for same markets. Number of local markets.	Average for— December, 1923.	November, 1923.	December, 1922.
New England	8	$3.28–$4.09	$3.65	8	$3.65	$3.71	$3.35
Middle Atlantic	16	2.25– 3.26	2.87	15	2.86	3.00	2.90
East North Central	27	1.92– 3.15	2.69	21	2.71	2.71	2.43
West North Central	20	1.62– 3.38	2.45	18	2.49	2.46	2.37
South Atlantic	16	2.61– 5.40	3.69	13	3.66	3.64	3.12
East South Central	4	2.05– 2.90	2.46	4	2.46	2.46	2.48
West South Central	8	2.00– 3.51	2.78	7	2.81	2.84	2.67
Mountain	9	1.83–3.20	2.50	7	2.59	2.51	2.35
Pacific	10	1.95– 3.60	2.81	9	2.90	2.89	2.72
United States	118	1.62– 5.40	2.82	102	2.89	2.90	2.65

1 The prices at country points apply to milk delivered direct by farmers in their own cans to local milk shipping stations and near-by city milk plants. They show the range and average of prices actually received by producers supplying cities and differ from the dealers' buying prices by the costs of transportation applicable to different shipping points. The price per 100 pounds may be reduced to price per quart by dividing by 46.53.

Report of Fluid Milk Market for December.

Wholesale and Retail Milk Prices at Cities.

State.	City.	Dealers' buying price at city for 3.5% B. F.	Selling price.[1]				Prevailing B. F. test of milk sold.
			On routes.			At retail stores.	
			Wholesale trade.		Family trade.		
		Bulk.	Bulk.	Bottles.	Bottles.	Bottles.	
		Cts. per qt.	Cts. per qt.	Cts. per qt.	Cts. per qt.	Cts. per qt.	Per ct.
Ala.	Birmingham	8.47-8.73	11.25	12	15	15	4.0
	Mobile		12.5	13.75-15	17-20	16-20	
Ariz.	Phoenix		7.5	9	11-12.5	11-12.5	
Ark.	Little Rock	6.88	11.25	13	16	16	3.5
Calif.	Los Angeles	7.52	11.66	14	15	15	3.6-4.0
	San Diego	8.38	11.66	13	15	15	3.8
	San Francisco	6.68	10.33	11.2	14	14	3.7-4.0
Colo.	Colo. Springs	6.60	8.25	11	12	12-13	3.3-3.7
	Denver	5.27	7.5-8.75	10	12	8-12	3.1-3.6
	Pueblo	6.70			13	12-13	3.6
Conn.	Bridgeport	8.06	11	13	15	15	3.6
	Hartford	9.07	12	13-14	16	15-16	3.6-4.4
	New Haven	9.07	12.5	14	16	16	3.7
Del.	Wilmington		10	12	12	14	3.6-3.7
D. C.	Washington	7.99	11	12	15	15	3.5-4.0
Fla.	Jacksonville	8.49	12.5	14-15	17-18	17-18	4.2
	Miami	12.49-13.75	15-17.5	17.5-20	18-25	18-25	4.0
	Tampa	10.62	14.5	16	20	18-20	
Ill.	Chicago	6.94	9-10	13-14	14	14	3.5
	Joliet	6.45	9.5	12	14	14	3.2-3.5
	Peoria	5.16	8	10.5	13	12	3.6
	Rockford	5.91	9	10	12	12	3.6-3.65
Ind.	Evansville	5.56	9	12	13.5	13.5	3.7
	Indianapolis	4.87	8-8.75	10-10.5	12	12	3.8-4.0
	South Bend	5.48	8.75	10	12	12	3.8-4.0
Iowa.	Davenport	5.16	7-8	8-9	10-11	10-11	3.6-3.8
	Des Moines	6.34-6.55	8.75-10.5	10-12	14	12-14	3.2-3.8
	Sioux City	5.70	8.75	10	12	12	3.6
Kans.	Topeka	5.05	7.5	10	12	12	3.7
Ky.	Louisville	5.76-6.17	8.75	11	13	13	3.8-4.0
La.	Alexandria	7.50	12.5	13	15	15	4.0
	New Orleans	7.54	10	13		15	4.0
Md.	Baltimore	7.11	10	13	13	15	4.0
	Cumberland	7.52	11.5	13	15	15	4-4.2
Mass.	Boston	8.77-8.83	10.75	13	15	13.5	3.7
	Fall River	9.59	12	12.5	15	13-15	
	Springfield	8.49	12	13	15	12-14	
Mich.	Detroit	6.45	9.5-10	12-13	13-14	13-14	3.4-3.8
	Grand Rapids	6.17	8.75	11	13	11-13	3.5-3.6
	Kalamazoo	6.88			13	13	
Minn.	Duluth	6.45	8.5	11	13	13	3.7
	Minneapolis	6.24	9-9.75	10.5	12	11-12	3.5-3.7
	St. Paul	6.24	9.75	10.5	12	12	3.5
	Winona	7.26	9.75	10.45	12	12	3.5-3.6
Mo.	Kansas City	6.13	10	10-11	13	10-15	3.8
	St. Louis	6.45	9.5	11	13	13	3.5-3.8
Mont.	Butte		8.75	11.25	14	13	3.5-3.6
Nebr.	Lincoln	4.70	7.5	9.5	11	11	3.5
	Omaha	5.37	8.13	10	12	11-12	3.4-3.6
N. H.	Concord	7.05	9.38	12	14	14	3.35-4.4
N. J.	Trenton	6.81	9	10-11	12	12-13	3.7-3.8
N. Mex.	Albuquerque	6.88	11.25	12.5	15	15	4.0
N. Y.	Buffalo	[3] 6.72	9.5-10	10.5-11.5	13	13	3.6-3.7
	New York [2]	5.97-6.45	10-11	14	15	11-16	3.6-3.9
	Rochester	7.09	11.5	12.5	14		3.7
N. C.	Asheville	7.52	11	13	16	16-18	4.0
	Winston-Salem	7.09	10-11.25	13	16	17	4.5
N. Dak.	Fargo	4.21	6.25	8	10	10	3.5
	Jamestown	4.83	7.5	8	10	10	3.5
Ohio.	Akron	7.35	9.5	11	13	13	3.5-3.7
	Cincinnati	7.09-7.31	10.5-11.5	12	14	14	3.5
	Cleveland	7.09-7.31	9.5	11.5	13-14	10-14	3.5-3.7
	Columbus	6.45	9.5-10	12	13	13	3.5-4.0
	Toledo	5.48-5.70	9	10.5	12	12	3.5-3.6
Okla.	Oklahoma City	5.27	8.75	12	14	12-14	4.0
	Tulsa	5.27	10	12	16-25	15-18	4-4.2
Oreg.	Portland	5.27	8.75	9-10	12	11-12	3.8
Pa.	Harrisburg	5.48-5.65	9	10.5	12	12	3.5
	Philadelphia	6.81	8.75-9.25	11-12	12	12-13	3.8
	Pittsburgh	8.60	10-11.25	14.5	15		3.5-3.7
	Scranton	7.18		13	14	14	3.6
R. I.	Newport	8.77	13	13	15	15	3.9-4.2
	Providence	8.77		13	15.5		
Tenn.	Chattanooga	5.27	8.75	9-12	15-16	15	4.0
	Nashville	4.87	9.5	12		14	4.2
Tex.	Dallas	6.02	10	10-12	15	13-15	4-4.5
	El Paso	6.98-7.19	11.25	12	14.4-16	13-17	3.6-4.2
	Houston	6.02			15		
Utah.	Salt Lake City	5.00	7.5	9	10	11	3.6-3.8
Va.	Richmond	8.62-9.20	11	14	15		3.8
	Roanoke	7.11	11.25	13	15		3.8-4.0
Wash.	Seattle	6.34			10-12	8-12	3.6
	Spokane	5.61	9	10	12	12	4.12
W. Va.	Clarksburg	7.95	10.75	14	16	17	3.8-4.0
Wis.	Beloit	5.91	8	10	12	12	3.6
	Kenosha	6.45	10	11	12	12	3.6
	Milwaukee	6.45	7.5	9.5	11	10-11	3.6-3.78
	Superior	6.45	8.5	11	13	13	3.7-4.0

[1] These prices represent standard or grade B milk, which is the grade most commonly sold, the butterfat content varying from 3.1 to 4.5 per cent in different cities.
[2] The dealers' buying prices for New York City apply to milk purchased in the 200-210 mile zone.
[3] 7.59¢ for some milk first half of month.

British Butter Prices Advancing.

The large British butter distributing concerns are anticipats ing a high level of values during the first three or four month of 1924, says the London Grocer & Oil Trade Review for December 1. These firms are buying considerable quantities of New Zealand forward as a protective stock. Considerable business has been done for the November and December production in New Zealand, which is equivalent to January to March arrivals. The December space allocations on board ship for New Zealand butter amounted to about 250,000 boxes against 354,000 boxes for November, a reduction of 104,000 boxes. Last year the November shipments from New Zealand amounted to 386,000 boxes and the December shipments to 311,000 boxes.

There is a good inquiry for butter at slowly increasing prices. Wholesale prices of New Zealand and Australian butter during the first three months of 1923 averaged well over 42¢ per lb., when arrivals from those countries were much heavier than they can possibly be during the first three months of 1924, says The Grocer. In view of this fact and also to the fact that the general retail price of Danish, New Zealand, and Australian butter during the first three months of 1923 was around 53¢ per lb., it is concluded that both wholesale and retail prices during the next three or four months, when arrivals are expected to be smaller than during the corresponding period last year, will be on an equally high basis.

Reports received in London indicate that stocks in Australia are decreasing and that the factories in Victoria will commence storing for winter requirements after January 1. At the present time there is an unusual scarcity on British markets of both New Zealand and Australian unsalted butter, which is consequently realizing high prices. The wholesale quotation for New Zealand unsalted in London on December 1 was 43¢ per lb. as compared with the range of from 40¢ to 41¢ per lb. last year. Considerable attention is therefore being given to Argentine unsalted which was quoted at from 30¢ to 42¢ per lb. on December 1 as compared with last year's range of from 24¢ to 40¢ per lb. A rapid rise in the price of Argentine unsalted is expected before Christmas.

There are good supplies of Siberian butter on the London market with wide variations in quality. Best descriptions are bringing high prices and other grades are being freely taken by high-class bakers and confectioners, as these are eminently suitable for their requirements, being firm, waxy and possessing a low percentage of moisture. According to The Grocer there is no better value in salted butter on the market than the Siberian, which is offered at much less money than inferior qualities of Colonial. Wholesale quotations on Siberian butter ranged from 32¢ to 39¢ per lb. in London on December 1.

Russia Grants Egg Export Concession to Hamburg Firm.

The Russian Government is reported to have entered into an agreement with a Hamburg firm for the exportation of Russian eggs, poultry, and deer, says Consul T. Jaeckel at Hamburg. The head offices of the organization will be located at Petrograd. Before the war, eggs constituted an important item of the Russian export trade. The Russian Government is actively encouraging the development of the trade, having removed all restrictions and taxes on egg exportation.

British Cheese Situation.

The majority of British cheese wholesalers and retailers are at present confining their purchases to immediate requirements, says the London Grocer and Oil Trade Review for November 10. This action is influenced largely by the reported heavy increase in the early production in New Zealand. Lower prices, however, are not expected until a substantial accumulation of stocks has taken place in London.

Changes in November prices to producers. Bridgeport, Conn.—Dealers' buying prices reduced Nov. 12 from $4.22 per cwt. to $3.75 per cwt. (1¢ per quart). Boston, Mass.—November price reported 9¢ per cwt. less than price publishd last month.

Cold Storage Report, December 1, 1923.

Cold storage holdings of apples increased during the month by the equivalent of 2,968,000 bbls., or approximately 43% of the November 1 holdings. The greatest increase was in boxed apples, the increase being approximately 94%.

Holdings of creamery butter were 51,559,000 lbs. compared with 47,773,000 lbs. a year ago and a five-year average of 66,283,000 lbs. The decrease during the month was 24,913,000 lbs., November 1 holdings being 76,472,000 lbs.

American cheese holdings decreased during November by 2,822,000 lbs. Total cheese on hand was 72,720,000 lbs. compared with 48,620,000 lbs. a year ago.

Case egg stocks were somewhat above the December 1, 1922, holdings. The decrease for the month was 2,614,000 cases, or about 39% of November 1 holdings. The out movement for the same period last year was 2,469,000 cases, or about 43% of the November 1 stocks.

Frozen poultry showed the seasonal increase for the month. A considerable amount of turkeys went into storage during November and December stocks were unusually heavy.

Total beef holdings showed an increase of 47% for the month but were somewhat below last year's stocks. Stocks of pork showed an increase of about 14%.

Lard holdings were heavier than last year, but lighter than the five-year average.

Cold Storage Holdings on December 1, 1923, with Comparisons.

[Thousands, i. e., 000, omitted.]

Commodity.	Nov. 1, 5-year average.	Nov. 1, 1922.	Nov. 1, 1923.	Dec. 1, 5-year average.	Dec. 1, 1922.	Dec. 1, 1923.
Apples.						
Barrels	3,099	4,133	4,226	3,495	4,319	4,981
Boxes	3,853	4,164	[3] 6,886	7,588	7,271	13,333
Baskets (bushels)	.....	.....	1,179	.....	.....	1,370
Total apples (barrels)[1]	4,383	5,521	[3] 6,914	6,024	6,743	9,882
Lemons (boxes).						
Domestic	.....	.....	8	.....	2	8
Imported	.....	.....	2	.....	1	.....
Total lemons	.....	.....	10	.....	3	8
Butter (pounds).						
Creamery	86,993	73,857	76,472	66,283	47,773	51,559
Cheese (pounds).						
American	47,736	40,852	57,927	39,880	37,291	55,105
Swiss, including block	4,355	5,720	6,094	4,138	5,472	7,364
Brick and Munster	1,216	1,023	2,535	1,332	1,193	1,922
Limburger	1,104	868	1,264	967	824	1,078
All other varieties	8,542	5,353	6,482	7,746	3,840	7,251
Total cheese	62,953	53,816	74,302	54,063	48,620	72,720
Eggs.						
Cases	4,569	5,726	6,645	2,579	3,257	4,031
Frozen (pounds)	21,871	30,523	40,424	22,720	26,233	35,914
Frozen Poultry (pounds).						
Broilers	9,814	9,202	10,554	11,520	11,535	12,542
Roasters	6,729	6,232	[3] 9,144	16,247	17,247	19,188
Fowls	4,910	2,842	3,380	9,820	7,122	8,044
Turkeys	1,651	2,306	5,198	3,869	2,154	6,722
Miscellaneous varieties	11,650	9,658	12,087	16,940	13,723	16,854
Total frozen poultry	34,754	30,240	[3] 40,363	58,396	51,781	63,350
Meats (pounds).						
Beef, frozen	114,823	47,929	43,772	135,782	73,027	70,988
Beef, in process of cure	[2]	12,830	10,009	[2]	14,711	12,791
Beef, cured	24,328	7,054	9,640	26,024	7,890	9,365
Total beef	139,151	67,813	63,421	161,806	95,628	93,144
Pork, frozen	44,118	30,688	71,640	42,182	33,774	83,766
Pork, dry salt, in process of cure	[2]	50,435	65,055	[2]	52,701	70,776
Pork, dry salt cured	174,844	35,236	43,795	163,875	30,316	39,769
Pork, pickled, in process of cure	[2]	175,875	209,580	[2]	199,258	264,923
Pork, pickled, cured	243,809	102,936	115,876	249,238	103,450	119,270
Total pork	462,771	395,170	505,946	455,295	419,499	578,504
Lamb and mutton, frozen	15,167	3,458	1,997	17,260	3,633	2,015
Miscellaneous meats, frozen, and cured	70,168	45,954	57,214	72,164	50,405	66,619
Total meats	687,257	512,395	628,578	706,525	569,165	740,282
Lard	55,018	36,750	35,225	48,403	32,506	41,713

Fish (pounds).	Oct. 15, 5-year average.	Oct. 15, 1922.	Oct. 15, 1923.	Nov. 15, 5-year average.	Nov. 15, 1922.	Nov. 15, 1923.
Fish, frozen	69,794	54,757	62,616	72,337	54,502	63,492
Herring, cured	23,763	24,126	17,566	20,632	22,942	15,572
Salmon, mild cured	8,128	8,092	6,617	7,548	7,294	5,683

[1] Three boxes are considered the equivalent of one barrel.

[2] Prior to 1920, figures for cured meats included those for meats still in process of cure.

[3] Corrections: U. S. Figures for this item in the report as given on page 554, issue of Nov. 24, were in error, though the figures by sections were correct.

Meats Placed in Cure or Frozen and Fish Frozen During Month.

Variety (pounds).	Oct. 1921.	Oct. 1922.	Oct. 1923.	Nov. 1921.	Nov. 1922.	Nov. 1923.
Beef, frozen	21,065	24,455	29,695	26,765	41,168	41,271
Beef placed in cure	9,051	11,381	9,980	10,602	12,067	10,931
Pork, frozen	17,774	17,809	27,285	18,171	30,414	49,734
Pork, dry salt, placed in cure	59,648	72,713	92,650	60,549	91,522	114,026
Pork, pickled, placed in cure	115,266	143,090	175,019	131,226	173,024	189,162
Lamb and mutton, frozen	2,035	878	714	1,444	800	472
Lard produced	98,404	113,465	132,233	109,793	138,090	154,052

	Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.	Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.	Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.	Oct. 15 to Nov. 15.	Oct. 15 to Nov. 15.	Oct. 15 to Nov. 15.
Fish, frozen	9,990	16,830	12,512	9,869	9,344	6,952

Cold Storage Holdings on December 1, 1923, by Sections.

Commodity.	New England.	Middle Atlantic.	East North Central.	West North Central.	South Atlantic.	East South Central.	West South Central.	Mountain.	Pacific.
Apples.									
Barrels	177	2,132	981	598	892	90	75	.....	36
Boxes	138	1,346	2,606	2,130	417	208	515	274	5,699
Baskets (bushels)	41	774	312	154	49	25	11	4	.....
Lemons (boxes).									
Domestic	.....	.....	1	2	.....	1	4	.....	.....
Imported	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Butter (pounds).									
Creamery	11,551	18,001	10,318	5,491	712	926	799	575	3,186
Cheese (pounds).									
American	5,494	21,101	20,713	1,012	650	369	549	1,863	3,354
Swiss, including block	.....	1,673	5,007	96	52	7	15	16	498
Brick and Munster	1	100	1,356	275	7	3	8	19	153
Limburger	.....	112	865	19	.....	8	1	2	71
All other varieties	54	4,153	2,563	56	27	.....	66	4	328
Eggs.									
Cases	366	1,453	1,141	576	47	74	79	40	255
Frozen (pounds)	1,567	13,498	10,086	7,515	709	433	378	45	1,692
Frozen poultry (pounds).									
Broilers	775	5,106	3,552	1,883	93	206	238	18	671
Roasters	1,291	8,731	5,947	2,745	26	11	97	14	326
Fowls	700	2,555	2,904	1,167	82	8	202	41	385
Turkeys	512	3,525	869	189	99	44	850	49	585
Miscellaneous varieties	1,234	8,687	4,568	1,721	83	94	60	70	337
Meats (pounds).									
Beef, frozen	2,242	5,295	35,342	21,315	600	110	4,015	371	1,698
Beef, in process of cure	319	2,163	5,401	3,741	112	36	705	94	220
Beef, cured	247	1,452	5,561	1,713	171	1	18	27	175
Pork, frozen	4,755	10,202	33,402	27,842	2,220	1,398	1,699	1,026	1,222
Pork, dry salt, in process of cure	1,570	3,349	29,705	30,958	1,688	1,417	1,121	511	457
Pork, dry salt cured	1,625	1,063	19,610	12,934	1,777	264	1,816	402	278
Pork, pickled in process of cure	10,971	20,287	118,516	94,223	5,886	3,441	2,939	2,726	5,934
Pork, pickled cured	6,550	9,125	52,263	39,460	3,676	974	3,055	1,255	2,912
Lamb and mutton, frozen	444	981	265	213	15	2	34	9	52
Miscellaneous meats, frozen and cured	2,555	5,635	27,496	23,943	1,593	491	2,885	615	1,403
Lard	3,269	3,265	17,765	12,557	1,234	444	871	787	1,521
Fish, frozen (Nov. 15, 1923)	16,469	18,310	8,245	3,008	780	44	38	34	16,564
Herring, cured (Nov. 15, 1923)	1,297	9,066	3,402	448	114	.....	.....	44	601
Salmon, mild cured (Nov. 15, 1923)	71	2,241	205	22	56	.....	.....	.....	3,088

Fruits and Vegetables

Large Supplies of Apples.

December crop estimates show fewer potatoes and sweet potatoes than were expected in November, but more apples. The cut in production of potatoes exceeds 4,000,000 bushels. Prices advanced in Maine, where a decrease of one and a half million bushels is reported. A number of consuming centers also quoted slightly higher prices. The barreled apple market seems rather unsettled, but boxed stock closed firm. Jobbing sales of onions tended toward lower levels, and cabbage was generally weaker. Sweet potatoes sold at irregular ranges. Total shipments of 15 fruits and vegetables for the week ending December 15 again decreased by 1,350 cars to less than 12,000, practically all important lines showing smaller volume.

Apples.—This year's commercial apple crop is the largest ever grown, according to the December estimate of 34,403,000 barrels. It exceeds by half a million barrels the big crop of 1920 and is 8% above last year's production. The net increase of 880,000 barrles over the November estimate is largely explained by the higher figures for the Potomac Valley region, Illinois, the Pacific Northwest, and California. Gains were partly offset by the 14% decrease in New York State and the smaller crop in Maine.

HEAVY STORAGE HOLDINGS.

Cold-storage holdings of barreled apples on December 1 were 860,000 more than the month before and far above last December's report and the five-year average. Eight million additional boxes of apples went into cold storage during November, making the total holdings more than 13,000,000 boxes, or nearly twice as many as on December 1, 1922. Storage plants also reported 1,370,000 bushel baskets on hand. Reduced to equivalent barrels, this season's holdings are about 3,000,000 barrels more than those of a year ago.

Under these conditions, there is little activity in the apple market. Extra Fancy Winesaps declined about 10¢ per box f. o. b. Washington shipping points during the past week, with Fancy Jonathans as low as 70¢–75¢. Terminal markets were quoting Extra Fancy Delicious at $3–$3.50 a box; Spitzenbergs at $2.50–$3, and Stayman Winesaps at $1.75–$2. Philadelphia reported Northwestern Jonathans around $1.40–$1.85, while Romes brought $1.65–$1.90 in Pittsburgh.

Shipments from far-western States decreased 22% to a daily average of 200 cars, half of which came from Washington. Movement from eastern and central sections averaged little more than 100 cars per day, with New York and the Virginias outranking all other States. Cold storage McIntosh reached high mark of $7.50 per barrel in New York City, with Rhode Island Greenings from up-State touching $6. The usual jobbing price on Eastern Grimes was $4–$4.50, Baldwins and York Imperials ranging $3–$4.

POTATO ESTIMATE DECREASED.

Potato growers and shippers were interested in the December crop report of 412,392,000 bushels, a decrease of about four million since the November estimate. This year's crop still is the fourth largest on record, but the per capita production will not be quite so high as first expected. Greatest decreases are noted in Maine, Pennsylvania, Illinois, South Dakota, and Nebraska. Important increases are 816,000 bushels in Michigan, 830,000 in North Dakota, and 323,000 in New York.

A small advance in f. o. b. prices at Maine and western New York shipping points may be the index of a stronger position for the potato growers in other parts of the country. Sacked Green Mountains closed at $1.30 per 100 pounds in Aroostook County, ranging $1.60–$1.80 in eastern jobbing centers. New York shippers were getting $1.25 f. o. b. for round whites, which sold in city markets at $1.50–$1.65. Pennsylvania stock reached slightly higher levels. The f. o. b. range in North Central States was 75–85¢, according to the variety, and Chicago car-lot sales of sacked round whites brought mostly $1–$1.15. Cash track prices in southeastern Idaho held about steady, with Rurals jobbing in Texas consuming centers at $1.60–$1.65. St. Louis reported a few sales of sacked Bliss Triumphs from Florida at $4.50 per 100 pounds.

Total shipments were somewhat less than the preceding week, but maintained a daily average of 450 cars. Movement from Maine was almost as great as that from Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota combined.

Cabbage.—Florida and Texas each shipped a few cars of new cabbage, and Florida Wakefield in 1½-bushel hampers declined about 40¢ on the Baltimore market to a range of $1.65–$1.75. Movement of northern cabbage for the week was only 600 cars. In leading distributing centers New York Danish type sold lower at $22–$30 per ton, f. o. b. sales weakening to $20–$21. Bulk Danish type from Wisconsin was jobbing at $21–$24 in Chicago, sacked stock bringing $24–$27 per ton delivered.

Sweet potatoes.—Total production of sweet potatoes is reported as 252,000 bushels less than was expected in November, according to the December estimate of 97,177,000 bushels. Crops in Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, and New Jersey show decreases, but Mississippi and Alabama made considerable gains in production. Shipments during the week dropped to 443 cars, a loss of 141. New Jersey yellow varieties closed steady at a range of $2.50–$3 per bushel hamper in New York City. Maryland and Delaware yellows sold slowly at $1.75–$2.50 in the East, and Tennessee Nancy Halls jobbed at $2.25–$2.75 in midwestern cities.

Onion prices tended downward, and demand in most markets was slow. Eastern yellow varieties weakened to a general range of $2.25–$2.75 per 100-pound sack, and middle-western yellows sold slowly at $2.25–$2.50 in the East and $2.25–$3 in middlewestern markets. Spanish Valencias brought mostly $1.75–$2.25 per crate. Onion shipments increased slightly during the week. New York remains the chief source of supply, with Indiana second.

OTHER VEGETABLES.

Long Island *cauliflower* sold stronger at $1.50–$2.50 per crate and California stock in pony crates brought mostly $1.50–$1.75. New York *celery* weakened slightly to $2.50–$3 per 2/3 crate, and Michigan Golden Hearts in square crates sold at $1.50–$1.75 in Chicago. California celery jobbed around $4.50–$6 a crate. Florida Big Boston *lettuce* ranged mostly $1.25–$1.75 per 1½ bushel hamper and western Iceberg type weakened to $2.75–$3.50 per California crate, bringing $1.50–$1.75 f. o. b. California points. California *tomatoes* advanced in New York City to $2.50–$4 per lug box, ranging generally $3–$3.50 elsewhere.

Prices of Fruits and Vegetables F. O. B. Shipping Points.

December 17, 1923, with Comparisons.

Product.	Shipping point.	Unit of sale.	Dec. 17, 1923.	Dec. 10, 1923.	Dec. 18, 1922.
Potatoes:					
Red River Ohios.	Minneapolis	100 lbs. sacked.	[1] $0.75	[1] $0.70	.....
Green Mountains.	Presque Isle, Me.	.....do.....	1.30	1.20–1.25	[2] $0.75–0.80
Round Whites.	Rochester, N.Y.	.....do.....	1.25	1.20	1.05
Do.	Waupaca, Wis.	.....do.....	.85	.85	.60–.65
Do.	Grand Rapids, Mich.	.....do.....	.83–.85	.80–.85	.62½–.67½
Rurals	Idaho Falls, Idaho.	.....do.....	.57½–.60	.55–.57½	.....
Apples:					
Winesaps	Spokane, Wash.	Boxes.....	1.25–1.40	1.35–1.50	.....
Baldwins	Rochester, N.Y.	Barrels.....	4.40	.....	3.75–4.00
Cabbage:					
Danish	.....do.....	Bulk per ton	20.00–21.	20.00–23.00	17.00–18.00
Do.	Racine, Wis.	.....do.....	19.00–20.00	19.00–20.00	15.00–17.00

[1] U. S. No. 1 and partly graded.
[2] Bulk per 100 pounds.

Mexico Shipping Bananas by Rail to United States.

The first important shipment of Mexican bananas for the United States to go by rail through Ciudad Juarez arrived there November 27, 1923, says Consul John W. Dye at that post. This shipment, consisting of two carloads, originated in the State of Oaxaca and was billed to Los Angeles, California. The fruit was being handled by express and the cars were attached to the regular passenger train. The trip to that point had taken five days and the fruit on arriving there was in first class condition. If the experiment is successful it is probable that regular shipments of several carloads per week will be made in which case the Mexican Central Railway will establish special facilities to handle them. Southern Mexico has a large variety of bananas and is well adapted to their extensive cultivation, says the Consul.

Arrivals and Prices of Fruits and Vegetables.

Arrivals include All Varieties of Each Product for the Week December 11–17, 1923, with Comparisons; Prices are for December 17, 1923, with Comparisons, and are for the Variety or Varieties Specified.

POTATOES (Prices quoted on Round Whites, sacked and bulk per 100 pounds).

Markets.	Total car-lot arrivals.					Jobbing range.		
	Dec. 11–17, 1923.	Dec. 4–10, 1923.	Dec. 12–18, 1922.	Jan. 1–Dec. 17, 1923.	Jan. 1–Dec. 18, 1922.	Dec. 17, 1923.	Dec. 10, 1923.	Dec. 18, 1922.
New York	264	285	236	21,026	19,677	$1.50–1.60	$1.50–1.65	$1.35–1.50
Boston	178	217	192	12,005	8,704	1.60–1.70	1.55–1.60	1.30–1.35
Philadelphia	94	91	87	8,129	7,252	1.60–1.65	1.50–1.55	1.50
Baltimore	17	24	24	2,245	[1]1,229	1.50–1.65	1.60–1.65	1.35
Pittsburgh	88	61	67	7,671	8,539	1.15–1.35	1.15–1.50	1.25–1.35
Cincinnati	16	18	36	3,002	3,451	1.15–1.25	1.10–1.35	1.00–1.10
Chicago	297	254	234	22,570	19,410	[2] 1.00–1.15	[2] 1.00–1.10	[2] .90–1.10
St. Louis	58	51	69	4,324	5,710	[3] [2] 1.05	[3] 1.25	[3] 1.00
Kansas City	104	107	146	11,157	9,430	[2] [3] 1.15	[2] [3] 1.10–1.15	[2] [3] .90–1.00

APPLES (Prices quoted on Eastern Baldwins, barrels).

New York	216	233	189	7,890	6,774	$3.50–4.00	$4.50	$4.50–4.75
Boston	10	4	7	686	935	.....	.....	5.00–6.00
Philadelphia	54	41	24	1,769	1,157	[4] 3.00–3.50	[4] 3.00–3.50	4.00–4.25
Baltimore	13	10	29	520	[1]366	[4] 3.00–3.25	[4] 3.50	[4] 3.50–4.00
Pittsburgh	75	48	44	2,383	2,719	3.75–4.00	4.50	4.25–4.50
Cincinnati	17	18	14	934	685	.....	4.75–5.00	4.25–4.75
Chicago	27	30	36	4,743	4,318	[5] 5.00–5.50	[5] 5.00–5.50	[5] 5.00–5.50
St. Louis	1	3	5	1,865	302	[5] 5.00–5.25	[5] 4.50–5.00	[5] 5.00–5.50
Kansas City	1	1	1	772	450	[5] 5.00–5.25	[5] 5.00–5.25	[5] 4.25–4.75

APPLES (Prices quoted on Northwestern Extra Fancy Jonathans and Spitzenbergs, boxes).

New York	212	190	239	5,995	4,040	$2.50–3.00	$2.50–2.75	$2.25–2.75
Baltimore	18	26	13	463	[1]269	2.25	2.25–2.40	.....
Chicago	198	375	226	7,179	3,344	2.25–2.50	2.00–2.25	2.00–2.25
Kansas City	56	82	73	1,751	1,050	2.00–2.25	2.00–2.25	2.25–2.50

ONIONS [6] (Prices quoted on Eastern and Midwestern Yellow Varieties, sacked per 100 pounds).

New York	119	316	106	3,844	2,025	$2.25–2.50	$2.75–3.00	$2.50–2.90
Boston	26	39	18	753	881	2.25–2.75	2.50–3.00	3.00–3.25
Philadelphia	57	24	62	789	875	2.25–2.60	2.75–3.00	2.65–2.90
Baltimore	13	8	7	208	[1]189	2.75–3.00	2.25–2.75	2.50–3.00
Pittsburgh	11	21	23	613	584	2.50–3.00	2.50–2.85	2.75–3.00
Cincinnati	4	7	5	208	76	2.50–3.00	2.50–3.00	3.25–3.50
Chicago	52	33	38	1,402	790	2.00–2.25	2.50–2.75	2.50
St. Louis	10	10	7	372	277	[7] 3.00	.....	[7] 1.90–2.25
Kansas City	23	17	14	428	260	[7] 3.00–3.25	2.25–3.00	[7] 1.75–2.00

CABBAGE (Prices quoted on New York and Northern Danish Type, bulk per ton).

New York	104	44	98	3,372	2,397	$25.00–30.00	$28.00–35.00	$23.00–25.00
Boston	18	7	36	968	850	[8] 1.50– 1.65	[8] 1.50– 1.60	[9] 2.00– 2.25
Philadelphia	58	43	80	1,780	1,874	22.00–28.00	25.00–30.00	20.00–23.00
Baltimore	32	20	30	[1]1,183	[1]899	28.00–30.00	30.00	25.00
Pittsburgh	36	41	41	1,470	1,409	25.00–28.00	25.00–28.00	20.00–22.00
Cincinnati	19	12	7	701	742	25.00–30.00	30.00–35.00	30.00
Chicago	33	108	42	2,672	2,103	21.00–24.00	20.00–24.00	[10]26.00–27.00
St. Louis	21	23	26	1,307	1,744	25.00–30.00	25.00–28.00	25.00–30.00
Kansas City	16	22	19	747	773	25.00–30.00	25.00	[3] 1.25

SWEET POTATOES (Prices quoted on New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware Yellow Varieties, bushel hampers).

New York	59	75	111	6,725	8,764	$2.50–3.00	$2.50–3.00	$0.90–1.00
Boston	15	22	20	3,540	3,555	2.35–2.50	1.75–2.25	1.00–1.10
Philadelphia	20	13	9	1,998	2,045	1.75–1.80	1.75–2.00	.75– .80
Baltimore	8	10	12	[1]336	[1]462	2.00	1.50–2.00	.50– .75
Pittsburgh	58	37	37	2,470	2,599	2.10–2.25	2.85–3.00	1.25–1.50
Cincinnati	18	7	10	1,154	1,208	[11] 2.25	[11] 2.25	[11] 1.10–1.15
Chicago	55	51	66	6,830	5,863	[11] 2.20–2.30	[11] 2.30–2.40	[11] 1.10–1.25
St. Louis	1	2	7	1,585	1,602	[11] 1.50	[11] 1.75	[11] 1.00–1.10
Kansas City	2	3	2	3,269	2,608	[12] 1.50–1.65	[12] 1.50	[12] 1.00–1.10

[1] Arrivals incomplete.
[2] Carlot sales.
[3] North Dakota and Minnesota Red River Ohios.
[4] Eastern York Imperials.
[5] Midwestern Jonathans.
[6] Arrivals include Spanish imports.
[7] Red varieties.
[8] Bulk per 100 pounds.
[9] Barrels.
[10] Per ton, sacked and delivered.
[11] Tennessee Nancy Halls.
[12] Arkansas and Oklahoma Nancy Halls.

Carload Shipments of Fruits and Vegetables.

Week of December 9–15 and season to December 15, with Comparisons.

Product.	Dec. 9–15, 1923.	Dec. 2–8, 1923.	Dec. 10–16, 1922.	Total this season to Dec. 15.	Total last season to Dec. 16.	Total last season.
Apples:						
Western States	1,236	1,580	980	45,059	30,979	46,282
Eastern States	773	824	787	50,213	52,742	65,985
Cabbage:						
Old crop	603	720	623	29,298	35,064	41,327
New crop	12	13	8	32	[1] 40	[1] 29,289
Cauliflower	87	120	197	1,335	1,126	4,616
Celery	659	587	445	13,191	11,554	14,921
Grapes	171	449	28	62,080	59,836	59,863
Grapefruit	378	516	[2]	6,226	[2]	17,183
Lemons	123	125	[2]	1,547	[2]	8,194
Lettuce	694	800	558	3,525	2,179	27,354
Onions	479	420	453	19,707	23,515	29,759
Oranges	2,903	3,097	[2]	15,700	[2]	68,032
Potatoes:						
Sweet	443	584	607	10,485	13,240	21,564
White	2,746	2,886	2,430	134,965	153,531	254,127
Spinach	193	170	210	1,257	1,025	7,341
Tomatoes	11	22	6	23,512	26,522	26,644
Vegetables, mixed	445	399	399	22,082	19,252	19,676
Total	11,956	13,312	7,641	440,205	430,565	712,868

[1] Not included in totals.
[2] Unavailable.

Carload Shipments of Citrus Fruits for November.

State and product.	November.			October.		
	1923	1922	5-year average.	1923	1922	5-year average.
Grapefruit:						
California	30	42	34	19	12	19
Florida	2,498	1,836	1,739	1,920	1,331	1,314
Texas	11	2	3	0	0	0
Others	7	15	12	25	23	18
Total	2,546	1,895	1,788	1,964	1,366	1,351
Lemons:						
California	315	387	393	537	315	582
Oranges:						
Alabama	312	254	138	2	22	9
Arizona	81	44	51	0	0	2
California	2,171	1,976	2,124	1,818	1,428	1,729
Florida	5,714	2,607	3,139	1,068	1,253	732
Mississippi	10	0	2	0	0	0
Total	8,288	4,881	5,454	2,888	2,703	2,472

Potatoes in the Yakima Valley.

Yakima Valley, Washington, had shipped about 2,200 cars of potatoes to December 1. This is about one-half of the crop, according to local estimates, although some predict that shipments for the season may run as high as 5,000 cars. Most growers report only a fair yield, and, with the crops in California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington shorter than last season, shippers expect an improved potato market after the holidays. The Federal market news representative at Spokane reports that growers were holding for $25 per ton for U. S. Grade No. 1 stock in mid-December. Prices to the growers have ranged as high as $24 per ton for extra fancy potatoes, ordinary stock selling much lower. Better grading is being done this season, and many of the potatoes are inspected at shipping points.

Colorado Onion Shipments Heavy.

November estimates place the Colorado onion crop at 732,000 bushels. This is an increase of 200,000 bushels over the 1922 production. The State had shipped 404 cars of onions to December 8, or about 200 more cars than had been moved to the same date last season.

The Denver representative of the Federal-State market news service reports that on December 4 yellow varieties on the western slope were selling f. o. b. at $1.85–$1.90 per 100-pound sack. Most of the onions in the Greeley section were being shipped in cars of mixed vegetables, and the f. o. b. price for yellow varieties was $2, with medium size red varieties selling at $2.50. Demand was very limited.

Carload Shipments of Fruits and Vegetables, by States.

Shipments During November, and for Season to November 30, 1923, with Comparisons.

Shipping district.	November.			Season total to Nov. 30, 1923.	Season total to Nov. 30, 1922.	Five-season average to Nov. 30, 1919–1923.	Grand total last season.	Average grand total past five seasons.
	1923	1922	Average 1919–1923.					
APPLES (Western States).								
California	772	887	766	5,780	3,807	4,199	4,966	4,430
Colorado	571	1,027	716	1,913	2,400	2,713	3,385	3,068
Idaho	2,032	1,236	1,140	4,575	2,956	8,587	4,222	3,479
Montana	120	74	101	358	313	432	351	446
New Mexico	116	43	79	1,250	383	686	438	540
Oregon	1,914	1,238	1,521	4,297	2,205	3,235	3,893	4,259
Utah	250	219	157	784	633	585	718	542
Washington	7,817	5,596	6,562	23,464	14,686	18,529	28,295	25,257
Others	3	3	2	10	14	6	14	5
Total	13,595	10,323	11,044	42,431	27,397	33,972	46,282	42,026
APPLES (Eastern States).								
Arkansas	501	144	340	2,218	2,407	2,257	2,620	2,182
Delaware	14	19	7	1,554	1,730	931	1,751	700
Georgia	35	69	33	116	339	169	394	178
Illinois	534	492	292	4,096	4,434	2,908	4,840	2,873
Indiana	53	6	17	352	192	159	220	163
Iowa	18	18	11	234	350	160	351	123
Kansas	255	209	111	1,199	1,077	721	1,083	563
Maine	237	103	468	525	225	1,368	278	1,520
Maryland	443	120	179	1,752	1,029	959	1,124	843
Massachusetts	113	103	133	229	262	285	286	343
Michigan	1,680	854	824	7,586	5,788	5,708	6,015	4,903
Missouri	569	301	285	3,051	2,588	1,779	3,079	1,627
Nebraska	42	57	27	458	543	257	554	192
New Hampshire	90	81	102	224	177	284	187	277
New York	3,034	5,711	3,834	8,852	18,629	12,914	29,966	22,949
North Carolina	29	77	56	136	341	223	422	267
Ohio	219	61	120	742	409	563	424	544
Pennsylvania	894	372	414	2,691	1,524	1,541	2,038	1,745
Virginia	1,325	1,139	870	6,819	5,566	4,850	6,975	5,472
West Virginia	1,418	310	597	5,639	1,879	2,907	2,242	2,738
Wisconsin	15	12	7	343	209	146	205	85
Others	24	50	72	619	891	827	931	989
Total	11,592	10,304	8,799	49,435	50,604	41,916	65,985	51,279
CABBAGE.								
Colorado	386	166	157	2,898	1,816	2,244	1,964	2,088
Michigan	128	109	79	528	806	485	908	506
Minnesota	102	154	80	718	1,100	828	1,192	920
New York	1,908	2,224	2,061	4,573	5,682	4,798	10,263	8,654
North Carolina, second crop	19	12	11	101	59	52	68	36
Ohio	44	45	35	492	589	408	589	425
Pennsylvania	86	77	111	193	304	253	406	295
South Carolina, second crop	24	11	7	25	11	7	599	292
Washington	11	17	37	75	85	93	104	95
Wisconsin	1,163	886	783	4,135	4,352	3,318	5,875	4,046
Others	42	91	95	14,741	18,659	14,224	19,359	14,374
Total	3,913	3,792	3,456	28,479	33,463	26,710	41,327	31,731
CAULIFLOWER.								
California	446	65	359	490	83	432	3,611	2,783
Colorado	16	0	4	47	4	11	4	2
Michigan	13	1	3	35	1	8	1	1
New York	144	206	152	519	639	569	683	625
Others	6	11	5	25	38	19	317	129
Total	625	283	523	1,116	764	1,039	4,616	3,540
CELERY.								
California, N. dist.	924	850	664	997	907	693	2,984	1,962
California, S. dist.	18	28	31	114	50	60	1,350	789
Idaho	32	16	14	42	26	23	26	18
Michigan	299	328	217	1,284	1,503	979	1,626	860
New Jersey	17	1	19	182	88	144	115	154
New York	986	742	783	2,382	2,412	1,923	3,247	2,421
Oregon	62	41	27	160	82	59	82	28
Others	14	21	16	6,815	5,487	4,564	5,491	3,784
Total	2,352	2,040	1,771	11,976	10,555	8,445	14,921	10,016
GRAPES.								
California, N. dist.	2,346	1,489	1,312	19,515	15,239	13,639	15,264	10,678
California, C. dist.	5,005	4,349	2,612	29,182	24,012	19,005	21,207	15,066
California, S. dist.	17	129	36	3,609	4,416	2,837	4,418	2,654
Michigan	17	6	10	4,034	6,020	3,936	6,020	3,456
New York	161	350	205	4,239	7,718	4,847	7,728	4,405
Pennsylvania	18	41	50	854	1,558	986	1,558	888
Others	10	2	3	699	668	430	668	360
Total	7,574	6,366	4,228	62,042	59,631	45,680	59,863	37,507

Shipping district.	November.			Season total to Nov. 30, 1923.	Season total to Nov. 30, 1922.	Five-season average to Nov. 30, 1919–1923.	Grand total last season.	Average grand total past five seasons.
	1923	1922	Average 1919–1923.					
LETTUCE (old crop).								
Colorado	10	3	3	1,419	812	521	812	238
Idaho	308	249	128	1,188	889	457	889	220
Michigan	10	0	2	208	81	112	81	75
New Jersey	297	276	247	444	537	437	572	395
Oregon	47	38	17	152	128	62	129	32
Utah	10	0	2	23	15	9	15	4
Virginia	38	45	28	67	106	73	107	80
Others	15	12	18	24,134	19,675	16,126	19,677	12,746
Total	735	623	445	27,635	22,243	17,797	22,282	13,790
LETTUCE (new crop).								
Arizona	20	0	4	20	0	4	834	343
California	1,222	676	814	1,644	897	1,097	13,863	8,335
Florida	240	145	173	240	145	173	2,926	2,693
Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,012	6,445
Total	1,482	821	991	1,904	1,042	1,274	27,635	17,816
MIXED VEGETABLES.								
California	487	595	637	3,858	3,156	4,349	3,737	4,670
Colorado	225	124	109	2,706	2,104	1,557	2,176	1,254
Florida	83	11	24	1,844	1,213	897	1,335	598
Illinois	23	9	8	510	238	241	243	145
Louisiana	107	51	84	1,855	1,232	1,243	1,446	1,260
Minnesota	15	24	10	149	203	121	217	123
New Jersey	116	288	136	4,476	4,892	2,839	4,930	2,195
New York	46	53	89	379	364	463	403	442
North Carolina	15	28	12	735	326	277	326	139
Utah	14	13	8	109	111	64	117	44
Others	51	151	78	5,497	4,586	3,587	4,746	2,923
Total	1,182	1,347	1,195	22,118	18,425	15,638	19,676	13,793
ONIONS.								
California, N. dist.	339	167	286	2,325	1,734	2,619	2,376	3,343
Colorado	117	45	45	380	168	202	651	333
Idaho	57	12	16	185	103	74	161	51
Illinois	14	26	18	335	400	259	487	311
Indiana	544	290	337	2,918	3,594	2,106	4,683	2,557
Iowa	11	61	50	774	845	654	918	731
Massachusetts	255	135	302	1,209	1,056	1,622	1,912	2,738
Michigan	216	405	169	511	1,436	554	1,867	779
Minnesota	26	68	41	96	387	245	500	442
New York	599	280	417	3,031	1,407	1,870	2,812	2,856
Ohio	287	541	330	1,095	2,947	1,523	4,492	2,674
Oregon	45	32	32	166	87	123	263	214
Utah	21	16	10	127	127	65	170	49
Washington	56	37	25	1,045	729	732	765	655
Wisconsin	23	25	21	130	214	134	330	246
Others	20	43	37	4,836	7,287	6,180	7,372	6,378
Total	2,630	2,183	2,136	19,163	22,521	18,962	29,759	24,357
PEARS.								
California	68	130	80	6,574	6,433	5,135	6,461	4,630
Maryland	11	2	3	74	36	33	36	27
Missouri	11	5	3	86	36	45	36	28
New York	113	268	213	1,386	5,265	2,948	5,454	3,001
Oregon	96	97	44	2,475	1,849	1,415	1,862	1,082
Washington	90	83	82	3,931	2,599	2,715	2,678	2,457
Others	30	40	34	2,605	3,832	2,653	3,840	2,471
Total	419	625	459	17,131	20,050	14,944	20,367	13,696
SPINACH.								
Illinois	30	7	8	41	7	10	7	5
Maryland	163	149	129	435	339	248	651	343
Missouri	15	0	3	15	0	3	27	81
New Jersey	51	36	31	67	73	43	82	40
Virginia	280	215	141	290	222	145	3,208	2,024
Others	12	5	14	33	7	21	3,366	1,917
Total	551	412	326	881	648	470	7,341	4,410
TOMATOES.								
California	510	274	336	3,206	2,270	2,251	2,305	1,927
Ohio	14	10	10	934	554	531	557	505
Texas	19	0	10	1,071	1,841	1,464	1,844	1,483
Others	5	6	10	18,418	21,938	15,452	21,938	14,173
Total	548	290	366	23,629	26,603	19,698	26,644	18,088

Carload Shipments of Fruits and Vegetables, by States—Continued.

Shipping district.	November. 1923	November. 1922	November. Average 1919–1923.	Season total to Nov. 30, 1923.	Season total to Nov. 30, 1922.	Five-season average to Nov. 30, 1919–1923.	Grand total last season.	Average grand total past five seasons.
SWEET POTATOES.								
California	183	225	187	493	627	582	982	826
Delaware	247	185	134	295	242	180	2,632	1,748
Georgia	60	74	60	201	206	173	781	826
Illinois	32	45	36	34	46	37	113	147
Indiana	33	1	7	41	4	11	65	42
Kansas	30	6	8	57	23	20	60	25
Kentucky	13	4	7	19	8	12	55	33
Louisiana	31	78	81	185	430	271	1,033	591
Maryland	191	233	174	644	826	651	1,749	1,233
New Jersey	242	311	262	980	1,300	1,032	2,858	2,408
North Carolina	44	22	42	343	394	484	679	807
Oklahoma	14	4	8	15	12	25	85	72
Tennessee	121	88	91	239	251	251	1,491	1,143
Texas	73	121	119	198	515	358	974	637
Virginia, E. S.	524	1,022	936	5,156	6,081	5,245	6,326	4,904
Virginia, other	15	17	34	160	274	228	307	306
Others	35	46	94	368	636	571	1,374	1,219
Total	1,891	2,482	2,277	9,428	11,875	10,131	21,564	16,967
POTATOES.								
Leading sections, late crop.								
California, N. D.	394	704	687	2,936	3,401	4,148	5,860	7,206
Colorado	1,113	1,294	1,233	5,887	6,386	6,824	15,470	13,423
Idaho	1,677	1,482	1,403	6,515	5,911	5,676	16,213	10,721
Iowa	24	102	40	209	807	433	843	610
Maine	3,675	2,675	2,764	13,602	7,728	9,679	24,385	24,542
Michigan	2,085	2,477	2,379	5,035	6,369	5,781	19,831	15,094
Minnesota	2,649	2,466	2,383	18,134	15,635	16,034	28,908	25,453
Montana	82	168	155	281	632	566	1,412	1,063
Nebraska	711	461	484	1,947	2,729	2,249	5,564	3,890
Nevada	129	148	141	290	292	265	744	608
New York, L. I.	681	914	682	5,114	5,702	4,161	7,216	5,145
New York, other	1,121	1,748	1,541	2,394	3,034	3,755	12,079	10,393
North Dakota	700	891	498	6,488	4,786	4,533	8,351	5,096
Oregon	137	192	202	651	738	475	1,842	1,408
Pennsylvania	783	1,176	1,076	1,535	3,625	2,657	5,752	4,333
South Dakota	241	232	135	3,253	2,428	2,262	2,702	1,991
Utah	107	107	73	948	1,815	933	2,036	919
Washington	963	506	734	2,242	1,594	2,041	5,065	4,209
Wisconsin	1,403	2,018	1,965	5,030	7,285	7,146	21,763	18,820
Total	18,675	19,761	18,578	82,491	80,897	79,618	186,036	154,996
Other sections, late crop.								
Arizona	17	69	34	41	203	84	344	159
California, S. D.	11	13	31	919	1,836	1,641	1,905	1,980
Delaware	31	15	29	90	94	81	240	167
Indiana	17	5	10	29	13	18	17	21
Md. E. S., 2d crop	33	130	127	34	160	141	711	588
Missouri	43	1	10	850	385	374	387	229
New Jersey	179	609	490	6,302	12,964	11,318	18,335	12,451
Ohio	48	26	30	73	61	67	95	98
Vermont	48	32	33	86	47	75	129	141
Va. E. S., 2d crop	144	149	271	155	166	291	322	451
Va. Norf., 2d crop	52	82	125	56	93	134	211	389
Va. other	61	15	25	221	381	269	385	286
Wyoming	31	90	57	360	535	447	1,037	642
Others	16	35	49	4,866	2,916	3,191	3,052	2,835
Total	731	1,271	1,321	14,082	19,854	18,131	27,170	20,437
SUMMARY POTATOES.								
Leading sections, late crop	18,675	19,761	18,578	82,497	80,897	79,618	186,036	154,996
Other sections, late crop	731	1,271	1,321	14,082	19,854	18,131	27,170	20,437
Early crop	11	21	28	33,249	40,859	31,824	40,923	31,819
Total	19,417	21,053	19,927	129,822	141,610	129,573	254,129	207,252

The acreage of cabbage in the Lower Rio Grande Valley is estimated at 7,800 acres this year, compared with 2,360 acres in 1923 and 12,900 acres in 1922. Growing conditions were good early in December. The movement prior to January 1 will be comparatively light, and most of the crop will probably move during March and April.

About 18,800 acres are in lettuce in the Imperial Valley in California and indications are for a yield of not less than 180 crates to the acre. On this basis this season's crop is estimated at 10,562 carloads. The season this year is about 15 days earlier than last year and the bulk of crop will move during December, January, and February.

Grain

Grain Market Generally Weak.

Further weakness developed in the grain market during the week December 10–15. Prices in the future markets declined 1¢–2¢ and there was considerable liquidation and stop-loss selling reported. Reports indicated that Argentine wheat was being offered at prices lower than the American wheat, but this was not an important factor in the market.

The export demand continued dull, although North American exports are averaging more than two-thirds of the total world's export movement. The exports of wheat from the United States totaled 1,451,000 bushels for the week, of which almost 800,000 were from the Pacific coast ports. Flour exports were 485,500 barrels, of which 157,700 barrels were from the western ports. Exports from foreign countries during the past five months have been unusually large, those from Argentina being 5,000,000 bushels more than last year, from British India a little more than 3½ times as much as last year, and from Australia about twice the amount exported a year ago. The large exports from these competing foreign countries is responsible for the light demand from this country, as prices of the United States wheat are generally higher than in the competing countries.

Receipts of wheat at the various markets were of fair volume, as producers in a number of sections were selling wheat to obtain funds apparently for taxes and holiday requirements. Country elevators also were reducing stocks in many sections preparatory for the inventory period. Primary receipts were about 500,000 bushels less than for the previous week, but there was an increase of more than a million bushels in the visible supply, caused partially by the light shipment from the markets.

	Wheat. Dec. 10–15.	Wheat. Dec. 3–8.	Corn. Dec. 10–15.	Corn. Dec. 3–8.	Oats. Dec. 10–15.	Oats. Dec. 3–8.
	Bushels.	*Bushels.*	*Bushels.*	*Bushels.*	*Bushels.*	*Bushels.*
Primary receipts	6,651,000	7,179,000	8,465,000	8,031,000	5,278,000	4,621,000
Primary receipts last year	9,038,000	10,574,000	7,951,000	7,327,000	5,339,000	4,597,000
Primary shipments	2,999,000	6,744,000	4,381,000	4,593,000	3,258,000	3,743,000
Primary shipments last year	6,321,000	7,909,000	3,651,000	3,696,000	3,930,000	4,310,000
Visible supply	73,808,000	72,547,000	4,722,000	4,340,000	18,157,000	18,058,000
Visible supply last year	34,847,000	33,516,000	13,111,000	11,336,000	31,952,000	32,130,000
	Cars.	*Cars.*	*Cars.*	*Cars.*	*Cars.*	*Cars.*
Chicago	95	106	1,715	1,083	562	495
Minneapolis	1,785	1,681	794	596	438	305
Duluth	570	653	43	129	79	44
St. Louis	412	397	411	368	450	264
Kansas City	1,076	781	441	388	166	167
Omaha	430	380	541	356	229	175
Cincinnati	61	36	85	83	24	24
Indianapolis [1]	30	.....	196	.....	76	.....
Wichita [1]	342	285	142	116	18	2
Hutchinson [1]	203	166	.....	.....	.....	.....
Milwaukee	19	17	425	469	241	242
St. Joseph [2]	81	.....	148	.....	14	.....
Toledo [1]	43	21	57	71	23	17
Sioux City [1]	29	28	264	169	80	46
Cairo [1]	.....	.....	18	.....	185	.....

[1] Week ending Friday. [2] Monday receipts omitted.

The usual holiday dullness was apparent in the markets and was reflected in a restricted demand from mills in most sections which were not inclined to accumulate large stocks at this time

In the spring wheat markets the basis of cash wheat prices was changed to the May future and premiums for No. 1 Dark Northern ranged from 3¢–7¢ over the May future price at Minneapolis. A few cars of especially good quality sold as high as 11¢ over the May price while some of the poorer wheat within the grade sold as low as the May price.

Durum wheat at Minneapolis continued on a Duluth December future basis and No. 1 Amber was quoted at the close of the week at 2¢–14¢ over the December future price. Receipts were very small and were readily disposed of.

Mills took practically all the offerings at firm prices in the Chicago market. The few cars of low-grade wheat not taken by the mills were readily absorbed by poultry feed manufacturers. There was also a good demand from outside mills without sufficient wheat of good quality to fill all orders.

Lake navigation closed at midnight December 13. The last boat to leave Chicago cleared Tuesday night with 105,000 bushels of wheat for Buffalo. The difference in rate on wheat to Buffalo between that to be unloaded and that to be held in boats for winter storage was only ½¢ per bushel.

The urgent demand from millers and shippers for the limited receipts of wheat at Milwaukee advanced prices on spring wheat 2¢–3¢ per bushel in that market.

There was a good demand from southern mills for wheat at Cincinnati, and prices on soft winter wheat held firm, notwithstanding the decline in future prices.

Receipts at Kansas City were unexpectedly large for the week under review, and this, together with a material slackening in the demand from mills in the East and the Northwest, resulted in lower prices at that market. Hard winter wheat with 13% protein content sold around 9¢ over the December future price. The Kansas City market, however, is still relatively higher than most of the other cash markets in the country, and this was reflected in the wider territory from which wheat was being received. The slower mill demand was attributed to the extremely dull flour trade, and but little improvement in this demand was expected until after the inventory period.

Local mills were good buyers of wheat at Wichita, but the demand for all grades of wheat was very dull toward the close of the week. Larger receipts of wheat at St. Louis were reflected in lower prices at that market also. Red Winter Wheat sold at prices about 2¢ lower than at the close of the previous week. There was a fair demand, but it was scarcely equal to the increased receipts. The flour trade was rather quiet, but fair sales were reported from that market early in the week for export to Germany.

CORN PRICES 1¢–2¢ LOWER.

Corn prices also declined 1¢–2¢ at the principal markets. The movement generally, however, continued light as farmers were said to be dissatisfied with the prices prevailing at the various markets. From information recently obtained by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates, the lower prices of corn are apparently being reflected in preparation for larger feeding operations. It is estimated that in the eleven principal Corn Belt States about 2% more cattle were on grain feed December 1 than at the corresponding time last year, and that about 214,000 more head of sheep were on grain feed than on December 1, 1922. The largest increase in the feeding was reported in those States in which there have been large amounts of soft corn, including Indiana and Illinois, or in those States which have had unusually large production, including Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Notwithstanding the reported decrease in country offerings, primary receipts were about 400,000 bushels larger than for the previous week, but the visible supply continues to be only about ⅓ of the amount at the corresponding time last year.

Shippers were fair buyers of Yellow Corn at Chicago during the week, but corn-products manufacturers were the best buyers and took the bulk of the commercial and lower grades, which constituted most of the receipts. Unfavorable weather over a large part of the Corn Belt tributary to Chicago further delayed the husking and marketing of corn, which was expected to be reflected in lighter receipts.

Unfavorable weather also resulted in light receipts at Cincinnati, but the demand was slow, as the buyers feared to accumulate large stocks of corn from the current arrivals, a large percentage of which continued to contain heavy moisture.

The demand for corn was rather slow both at St. Louis and Kansas City. The low price of hogs was a factor at the former market, while a falling off in the demand from the South and Southwest was a weakening factor at Kansas City.

There was a very light export demand for corn as offers were mostly below current prices. The total exports for the week were reported at 484,000 bushels, practically all of which was exported to Canada.

The *oats market* was relatively firmer than the market for either wheat or corn. Receipts were larger than for the previous week, but still were of only fair volume, and were well absorbed by shippers and feeders at the various markets. Stocks of oats in store increased only about 100,000 bushels during the week and are still but little over one-half the amount in store at the corresponding time last year. The demand for oats suitable for seeding purposes continued at Chicago but there were very few cars of suitable quality available. There was a fairly good demand from the South and Southeast at Kansas City which absorbed the limited receipts in that market, while elevator interests took practically all the arrivals at St. Louis.

The *rye market* remained firm. There was a good milling demand and cash sales generally were on a slightly better basis relative to the futures than during the preceding week. There was a keen demand from interior mills for rye from Wisconsin and shippers were taking most of the offerings from Dakota and Minnesota. The rye flour mills were reported to be unusually active and fairly large sales of rye flour were reported during the week to Germany and Holland. Eastern mills were buying rye in Chicago and other central western markets.

The stocks of rye in public warehouses were reported at 18,365,000 bushels.

Barley prices showed very little change during the week at Minneapolis. Receipts were small and cash barley was quoted at 49¢–63¢. At Milwaukee, however, prices were 3¢–4¢ lower than at the close of the previous week, caused by heavier consignments from shippers tributary to that market. No. 3 barley was quoted at Milwaukee at the close of the week at 66½¢–78¢.

Varying reports of the Argentine harvest caused an unsettled *flax* market at Minneapolis. The December future price showed a decline of 5¢ for the week. Cash prices were also slightly lower because of larger receipts. Spot seed sold at around the December price to 2¢ over.

Inspections of United States Wheat for Export, by Classes and Grades.

November, 1923.

(In thousands of bushels; 000 omitted.)

Classes	Hard Red Spring				Durum.				Hard Red Winter.				Soft Red Winter.				White.				Mixed.				Total, all classes.
Grades	No. 1.	No. 2.	All other.	Total.	No. 1.	No. 2.	All other.	Total.	No. 1.	No. 2.	All other.	Total.	No. 1.	No. 2.	All other.	Total.	No. 1.	No. 2.	All other.	Total.	No. 1.	No. 2.	All other.	Total.	
Portland, Me.																									
Boston																									
New York	49			49		367		367														40		40	456
Philadelphia		24		24										122		122									146
Baltimore														72	8	80						32		32	112
Newport News																									
Norfolk																									
New Orleans										408		408		36		36							59	59	503
Galveston																									
Texas City										40		40													40
Port Arthur, Tex.																									
Portland, Oreg.		10		10					311	234		545	67	406		473	47	615		662		75	26	101	1,791
Seattle										59		59	170	383		553		196		196					808
Tacoma										51		51		69		69		277		277					397
Astoria																		43		43					43
San Francisco																							9	9	9
Total November, 1923	49	34		83		367		367	311	792		1,103	237	1,088	8	1,333	47	1,131		1,178		147	94	241	4,305
Total October, 1923	173	40		213		343		343	563	1,781		2,344	585	1,687	48	2,320	179	2,756		2,935		288	44	332	8,487
Total July 1–Nov. 30, 1923	520	177		697	81	1,550		1,631	1,860	12,634		14,494	855	6,242	481	7,578	243	8,149		8,392		1,713	1,164	2,877	35,669

Grain Prices.

Daily Weighted Average Price per Bushel of Reported Cash Sales at Stated Markets, Week of December 8 to 14, 1923, with Comparisons of Weekly Averages.

Wheat.

Market and grade.	Daily prices.						Weekly averages.		
	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Dec. 8–14, 1923	Dec. 1–7, 1923.	Dec. 8–14, 1922.
CHICAGO.	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*
Hard winter.....No. 2	.....	106	108	108	109	110	108	108	123
No. 3	105	.....	106	.....	.....	105	105	104	.....
Y. Hd. Winter...No. 2	.....	106	.....	.....	107	.....	106	.....	124
No. 3	104	.....	.....	.....	103	.....	104	.....	122
Red Winter.....No. 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	110	.....	110	108	133
No. 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	105	132
MINNEAPOLIS.									
Dak. No. Spring..No. 1	120	121	120	121	122	121	121	121	130
No. 2	119	118	117	118	118	117	118	119	125
No. 3	113	113	114	112	113	112	113	113	120
No. Spring.....No. 1	118	118	117	118	118	117	117	116	125
No. 2	112	110	115	115	112	112	113	113	121
No. 3	110	111	112	110	111	109	111	112	119
Am. Durum.....No. 2	106	104	103	105	102	106	105	105	110
KANSAS CITY.									
Dk. Hd. Winter..No. 2	.....	.....	.....	116	112	.....	114	120	121
No. 3	.....	.....	.....	115	113	.....	114	113	122
Hd. Winter.....No. 2	113	110	110	110	108	109	110	113	117
No. 3	110	109	110	106	106	108	108	108	117
Y. Hd. Winter....No. 2	.....	.....	105	.....	.....	.....	105	.....	113
No. 3	.....	.....	104	105	.....	107	105	106	114
Red Winter.....No. 2	.....	111	.....	111	110	.....	111	112	125
No. 3	.....	109	107	108	.....	108	108	109	120
OMAHA.									
Dk. Hd. Winter..No. 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	121
No. 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	119
Hd. Winter.....No. 2	104	105	105	102	106	102	104	106	115
No. 3	103	102	102	102	101	102	102	104	114
ST. LOUIS.									
Hd. Winter.....No. 2	.....	108	108	108	.....	110	109	111	121
Red Winter.....No. 2	116	116	117	114	114	114	115	116	135
No. 3	113	113	113	111	112	109	112	113	131

Corn.

CHICAGO.									
White.....No. 2	76	74	74	.....	75	.....	75	75	74
No. 3	73	72	72	72	71	71	72	74	73
Yellow.....No. 2	78	76	76	74	74	74	75	79	74
No. 3	74	73	72	72	71	71	72	75	73
Mixed.....No. 2	74	74	73	73	73	72	73	76	74
No. 3	73	72	72	71	71	71	71	74	73
KANSAS CITY.									
White.....No. 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	70	69
No. 3	68	68	68	68	68	66	68	68	72
Yellow.....No. 2	72	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	72	.....	73
No. 3	70	70	70	69	68	68	69	70	73
Mixed.....No. 2	70	.....	.....	.....	.....	68	69	68	71
No. 3	69	68	68	68	66	66	68	68	71
OMAHA.									
White.....No. 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	68	67
No. 3	66	66	.....	66	65	64	66	66	66
Yellow.....No. 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	68	68	.....	68
No. 3	67	67	66	66	66	65	66	67	67
Mixed.....No. 2	.....	67	.....	.....	.....	.....	67	68	67
No. 3	65	65	.....	65	64	65	65	65	66
ST. LOUIS.									
White.....No. 2	76	76	.....	.....	.....	.....	76	78	75
No. 3	74	74	74	74	74	73	74	75	73
Yellow.....No. 2	.....	.....	.....	78	.....	.....	78	77	75
No. 3	77	76	76	75	75	74	75	75	73
Mixed.....No. 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	73
No. 3	.....	74	73	.....	73	72	73	73	72

Oats, White.

Chicago.....No. 2	45	45	44	45	45	45	45	45	47
No. 3	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	45
Minneapolis....No. 2	41	41	41	40	40	41	41	41	43
No. 3	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	41	41
Kansas City.....No. 2	.....	46	46	46	45	.....	46	46	45
No. 3	.....	45	45	45	44	44	44	45	45
Omaha.....No. 3	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42
St. Louis.....No. 2	47	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46
No. 3	46	46	46	45	45	45	45	46	46

Rye.

Market and grade.	Daily prices.						Weekly averages.		
	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Dec. 8–14, 1923.	Dec. 1–7, 1923.	Dec. 8–14, 1922.
	Cents.	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*
Chicago.....No. 2	70	70	70	.....	69	70	70	70	89
Minneapolis.....No. 2	66	67	66	65	66	66	66	65	83

Barley.

Minneapolis.....No. 2	.....	64	.....	.....	64	61	64	61	62

Closing Prices of Grain Futures, December 14, 1923, with Comparisons.

Wheat.

Market.	May futures.				July futures.			
	1923		1922		1923		1922	
	Dec. 14.	Dec. 7.	Dec. 14.	Dec. 7.	Dec. 14.	Dec. 7.	Dec. 14.	Dec. 7.
	Cents.	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*
Chicago	108⅜	109⅝	124	116¾	106¼	107⅜	114⅜	108¼
Minneapolis	111⅝	114⅞	122⅝	116¼	112¾	115¾	119¾	113⅜
Kansas City	103¼	105½	114½	107⅞	101	102⅜	107⅜	100⅞
Winnipeg	97¾	98⅝	113⅜	107¾	99⅝	100¼	112½	106⅝
Liverpool	100¼	100⅝	117⅜	116⅛	.....	.....	.....	.....

Corn.

Chicago	72⅞	74⅜	74½	70	74	75⅝	73⅞	69⅜
Kansas City	68¾	70⅝	72	67⅝	69¾	71¾	71¾	67¼

Oats.

Chicago	45½	46⅛	47	43	43⅜	44½	43	40⅛
Winnipeg	40⅝	41⅝	49¼	46¼	41⅞	42⅝	47⅝	45⅛

French Farmers Holding Wheat off the Market.

Farmers in France are holding their wheat for higher prices says the American commercial attaché, at Paris, under date of November 9. As a result the supplies for all milling are below normal. To bring about an improvement of conditions, the Minister of Agriculture is now urging farmers to market their crops as usual. It is pointed out that holding the wheat off the market may stimulate greater foreign imports and bring about an unwelcome surplus and low prices.

The increase in production of wheat in France in 1923 over that of 1922 is nearly as great as the total imports during the crop year, August 1, 1922, to July 31, 1923. With good harvests in North Africa to supplement the home supply and the continuation of economies practised last season, it has been estimated that the imports of foreign wheat would not exceed 20,000,000 bushels. However, if prices remain relatively low and the farmers refuse to sell, the mills will in all probability buy more foreign wheat, and the surplus thus created will eventually be absorbed through increased consumption. Wheat consumption in France is still much below pre-war consumption, so if restrictions on milling should be relaxed, it would not be difficult for the French people to consume their domestic wheat supply and perhaps 30,000,000 to 40,000,000 bushels of foreign wheat. Another factor which may contribute to increased wheat requirements in France is the shortage in the 1923 potato crop, which is now reported to be 25 per cent below the crop of 1922.

Hay and Feed

Usual Holiday Dullness in Hay Market.

The upward trend which has prevailed in the hay market during the past few weeks continued in most of the markets during the week December 10–15. Trading, however, during the week was of rather limited volume because of the preholiday dullness which usually becomes a factor in the market at this season of the year. Receipts at most of the markets were fairly large but were slightly less than for the corresponding week last year.

	Dec. 10–15, 1923.	Dec. 3–8, 1923.	Dec. 11–16, 1923.	Jan. 1, to Dec. 15, 1923.	Jan. 1, to Dec. 16, 1922.
	Cars.	*Cars.*	*Cars.*	*Cars.*	*Cars.*
Boston	87	106	78	4,258	4,559
New York	191	289	166	7,507	8,396
Philadelphia	123	86	76	3,242	4,451
Pittsburgh	130	145	121	5,967	5,797
Cincinnati	80	109	100	6,140	6,113
Chicago	234	182	301	11,135	12,210
Minneapolis-St. Paul	175	161	163	5,862	6,255
St. Louis	96	70	169	7,734	7,199
Omaha	166	151	186	6,238	.....
Kansas City	370	257	583	20,627	21,409
Los Angeles	252	175	95	7,841	6,144
San Francisco	109	117	82	6,179	3,932

Timothy prices held fairly firm in the eastern markets at around $28–$29.50 per ton for No. 1. The lower grades were dull and were difficult to move even at rather large discounts under the prices for the better grades of hay. At Boston a large part of the arrivals were from Maine and Canada and were principally of the medium and lower grades, for which the market was rather weak. Receivers in many instances were compelled to lower prices in order to move cars and save storage charges. In the New York market, also, a large percentage of the offerings were of Canadian hay. Much of this Canadian hay was in medium-sized bales of a rather low grade of mixed hay, for which there was practically no demand.

The embargo which was placed October 31 by the Pennsylvania Railroad against shipments of hay to Baltimore was removed during the week under review, and increased receipts were expected in that market. The previous accumulation was well cleaned up, but the demand in that market is not sufficient to absorb any large increase in receipts. The market at Philadelphia was about 50¢ higher for Nos. 1 and 2 timothy than at the close of the previous week, but the lower grades were still selling slowly.

The demand for hay in the Central Western distributing markets was also limited, as buyers were taking only sufficient hay for their immediate needs and were not accumulating stocks at this time because of the nearness of the inventory period. The unseasonably mild weather which had prevailed throughout most of the country up to this time was also a weakening factor in the market. Pasturage in most sections continued good and restricted the demand for hay.

The better grades of timothy were in good demand at Pittsburgh throughout the week under review, but clover and clover mixed hay and the poorer grades of timothy were difficult to move even at material concessions in price.

A slow southern demand together with the absence of buying by local dealers who had rather liberal supplies on hand caused a dull market at Cincinnati and dealers were advising shippers against the movement of a large volume of hay until after the holidays.

At Chicago and St. Louis there was scarcely sufficient hay of good quality to meet the needs of the trade and all hay of this character sold readily at full quotations. Inquiries for hay were reported at Chicago from buyers in Ohio, Indiana, and Pennsylvania, which is unusual, as hay is generally shipped out of these territories.

The scarcity of high-grade hay held prices of alfalfa firm during the week at most of the markets. There was a better demand from feeders in the Central West and in the Cotton Belt and all grades met a ready sale at Kansas City and other southwestern markets. Local dairymen were also good buyers of alfalfa at this market while mills took a large percentage of the arrivals at Omaha.

Reports from Arizona indicated a less urgent demand for hay in that territory, with a slight lowering of quotations. It was also stated that considerable alfalfa land would be plowed up and replaced with cotton during the coming season.

Continued drought in California caused an increased demand for alfalfa in that State which resulted in an advance of about $1 per ton for No. 1 Timothy at both San Francisco and Los Angeles. The supply of hay on the Pacific coast is being rapidly consumed and it was stated by dealers in that territory that practically all the alfalfa available in both California and Nevada would be used up before a new crop was available.

The Prairie market was firm. There was a good demand from all stock yards in the Central Western markets, but the supply exceeded the demand at Minneapolis.

The ranges throughout the Central West were reported in fairly good condition although moisture was still needed in some sections. Snow covered much of the range in Wyoming but the range remained mostly open in Montana, Utah, Nevada and other western States farther south.

Approximately 3,800 acres have been placed under irrigation from Robstown to within 1½ to 2 miles of Calallen, Nueces County, Texas, according to recent reports. Of this about 2,700 acres have been cleared and are under cultivation. The reports also indicate that about 600 acres of cabbage will be grown under irrigation in this area this season, compared with approximately 200 acres last season. There will also be about 200 acres of Bermuda onions.

Carload Prices of Hay and Straw Per Ton at Important Markets, December 15, 1923.

Commodity.	Boston.[1]	New York.[1 2]	Philadelphia.[1 2]	Pittsburgh.[1]	Richmond.[2]	Atlanta.	Savannah.	New Orleans.	Memphis.[1]	Cincinnati.[1]	Chicago.[1 2]	Minneapolis and St. Paul.[1]	St. Louis.[1]	Omaha.[1]	Kansas City.[1]	Los Angeles.[1]	San Francisco.[1]	Phoenix, Ariz.
HAY.																		
Timothy and clover:																		
No. 1 timothy	$29.50	$30.00	$29.00	$26.50	$29.00	$30.00	$34.00	$30.00	$27.00	$24.50	$27.00	$18.00	$28.50	.....	[3] $18.50	.....	.....	.....
No. 2 timothy	25.50	28.50	28.00	24.50	27.00	28.00	32.00	28.00	24.00	23.50	24.00	17.00	24.00	.....	[3] 16.50	.....	.....	.....
No. 1 light clover mixed	.....	30.00	28.00	25.50	28.00	29.00	32.50	.....	.....	25.00	25.00	17.00	.....	.....	[3] 18.00	.....	.....	.....
No. 2 light clover mixed	.....	.....	26.00	.....	27.00	27.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	22.50	14.50	.....	.....	[3] 15.50	.....	.....	.....
No. 1 medium clover mixed	.....	.....	26.50	.....	27.50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
No. 1 clover mixed	23.00	.....	.....	25.50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	[3] 17.00	.....	.....	.....
No. 1 clover	.....	.....	.....	25.50	29.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	26.50	23.00	.....	30.50	.....	[3] 18.00	.....	.....	.....
Alfalfa:																		
No. 1 alfalfa	.....	.....	.....	.....	34.00	36.00	.....	35.00	33.00	30.00	28.00	22.50	32.00	$20.50	25.50	$25.00	$21.00	$21.00
Standard alfalfa	.....	.....	.....	.....	32.00	33.00	.....	32.00	28.50	28.00	22.00	19.00	27.00	18.50	22.50	23.00	20.00	19.00
No. 2 alfalfa	.....	.....	.....	.....	31.00	28.00	.....	.....	23.50	24.00	20.00	15.00	20.00	15.50	19.00	.....	19.00	.....
Prairie:																		
No. 1 upland	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20.00	15.00	.....	14.50	15.00	.....	.....	.....
No. 2 upland	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17.00	13.50	17.00	11.50	13.75	.....	.....	.....
No. 1 midland	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14.00	10.50	19.50	13.50	[3] 9.00	.....	.....	.....
STRAW.																		
No. 1 wheat	11.50	.....	17.00	14.50	14.00	12.00	.....	18.00	.....	12.00	11.50	6.50	.....	7.50	8.75	.....	.....	.....
No. 1 oat	13.50	.....	17.00	14.50	.....	12.00	.....	.....	.....	12.00	12.00	7.00	.....	8.50	8.75	.....	.....	.....
No. 1 rye	[4] 25.50	.....	[4] 22.00	15.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15.00	12.50	7.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

[1] Hay quotations represent average of cash sales at these markets.
[2] Hay quotations based on United States grades.
[3] Nominal.
[4] Straight.

Mill-Feed Markets Were Quiet But Firm.

The mill-feed markets were quiet during the week December 8–15. Because of the approaching holidays and the usual stock taking around the first of the year the volume of sales was small. The resulting stagnation which commonly prevails during December is generally followed by a broader demand during January. Because of this fact and the possibility of higher prices next month almost every storage warehouse of importance in the country, including lakeport storage at Buffalo and other lake warehouses owned by the transportation companies, is well filled with feed-stuffs, particularly wheat feeds. While this is a natural condition at this season of the year, the mild weather which prevailed during the fall and which tended to lessen the demand, is largely responsible for the excellent storage stocks. Many public as well as private warehouses were obliged to refuse business because of lack of space.

The most important influences governing the markets during the week were the slackening in production of wheat feeds, the resulting absorption of pressing transit stocks, and a more active inquiry from the Southwest due to the colder weather in that section.

Prices held firm and in a few instances were somewhat higher. The movement was fair.

Wheat mill feeds.—Wheat mill feeds were firm. Bran was quoted about $1 per ton higher than last week in most of the markets, while the heavier wheat feeds were quoted about unchanged. A more active inquiry developed for January, February, and March shipment, which positions were quoted at 50 cents—$1 premium over prompt shipment, equal quantities monthly. The demand both from jobbers and the interior was light. Mills advised that high-priced feeds sold on the hard spots during the fall was not ordered out according to contract with any degree of promptness and much of that for which shipping instructions were furnished was ordered into storage. Even low-priced feed bought early in the crop year remained undelivered in many instances. Production was only fair. Both the southwestern and northwestern mills operated on greatly reduced capacity and this, coupled with the covering of large short interests in bran and middlings, assisted in maintaining prices. The transit situation showed improvement. In the eastern markets Buffalo and Canadian mills continued to offer bran at $32.50 and $33.50, respectively, delivered Philadelphia rate basis. Flour middlings were strong in the West but no demand of any consequence was noted in the East. Mill offerings were light to fair as the December output of most of them has been disposed of to distributors. The movement was good.

Cottonseed cake and meal.—Resale pressure entirely disappeared from the cottonseed cake and meal market. More and more crushing plants are shutting down because of the high prices prevailing for seed and their inability to realize a profit on cake meal and oil. Prices for cake and meal were advanced by mills about $1 per ton and at the close there did not seem to be available any of the offerings at the lower prices in effect the middle of the week. The advance was largely attributed to decreased offerings rather than to an increased demand. Southern markets indicated susbtantial sales to buyers in the Texas Panhandle. In the Northeastern States the demand was light and little activity was expected until colder weather arrives. Stocks at mills were about normal and interior supplies were generally in excess of the demand. Export inquiries were few and at bids below the prevailing quotations. The movement was good.

Linseed cake and meal.—Shipments of linseed cake and meal were heavy and approximately 50 per cent greater than during the same week last year. This was due to a good demand both for immediate and prompt shipment. While offerings both from resellers and mills were liberal they were well taken care of on shipping instructions and consequently prices held firm. The export demand was good and considerable cake was exported by seaboard mills. During recent months much of the cake made by these mills has been ground up and sold as meal for domestic consumption. As a result a better demand has been created in the Northeast for the product of northwestern and Buffalo mills. The latter worked some meal at $42 f. o. b. later advancing their prices at $42.50 and $43. Production continued heavy. Stocks both at mills and in the interior were rather large. The movement was good.

Gluten feed.—The demand for gluten feed was light. Because of the relatively high prices for this feed and the recent drop in corn values the trade did not make any purchases of any size but bought principally for immediate requirements with the expectation of contracting for its heavy requirements later on at lower quotations. Milling operations were large but open orders at prices guaranteed against decline made it possible to place the output without unduly pressing the market. Prices were held firm by mills but resellers offered at slight discounts. Stocks and the movement were heavy.

Hominy feed.—Hominy feed was easier as a result of lower corn prices and more liberal offerings from mills. New corn figured largely in the production of this feed and has caused quite a revision downward in quotations. However, the trade continued to watch the corn market closely and dealers were reluctant about contracting for future shipment. The demand for near-by shipment stuff was good and offerings of this position were rather light. Production and stocks were good and the movement fair.

Alfalfa meal.—Offerings of alfalfa meal were light. Western millers report quite an improvement in the demand from commercial mixers but the inquiry from other sources was light. Quite a little spot stuff was noted in the larger distributing markets and sales throughout the week were largely in the nature of distressed business. Prices held firm. The prevailing quotations for hay are about as high as the prices for meal of equal quality, especially when the grinding and cost of sacks is taken into consideration.

Carload Prices of Feedstuffs at Important Markets, December 15, 1923.

[Per ton, bagged, sight-draft basis.]

Commodity.	Boston.	Philadelphia.	Pittsburgh.	Baltimore.	Atlanta.	Savannah.	Memphis.	Cincinnati.	Buffalo.	Chicago.	Minneapolis.	St. Louis.	Omaha.	Kansas City.	Los Angeles.	San Francisco.
Wheat bran:																
Spring	$33.25	$32.50	$32.50	$31.50	$33.00	.....	.....	$31.50	$30.00	$29.00	$25.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Soft winter	35.75	35.00	33.50	32.50	33.00	$37.00	$31.00	31.50	34.00	.....	.....	$28.00	.....	$26.50	.....	$31.00
Hard winter	33.50	33.00	32.50	.....	32.50	.....	30.00	31.50	33.00	.....	.....	27.50	$25.50	26.50	.....	.....
Wheat middlings:																
Spring (standard)	32.75	32.50	31.50	30.50	35.50	42.00	32.00	30.50	29.00	27.50	24.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Soft winter	.....	37.00	34.00	31.50	36.50	.....	.....	34.00	37.00	.....	.....	32.50	.....	30.50	.....	41.00
Hard winter	.....	.....	36.50	.....	35.00	.....	.....	34.00	36.00	.....	.....	.....	31.50	30.50	.....	.....
Hard winter wheat shorts	.....	.....	.....	.....	36.00	.....	32.00	.....	36.00	.....	.....	29.50	28.00	28.00	.....	32.00
Wheat millrun	34.50	34.00	.....	.....	35.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25.00	.....	.....	28.00	$30.00	30.00
Rye middlings	29.75	29.00	27.50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	27.50	.....	20.50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
High protein meals:																
Linseed	49.50	48.00	47.50	.....	.....	.....	.....	47.50	44.50	47.00	46.00	50.00	50.00	49.00	.....	48.00
Cottonseed (43%)	56.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	52.00	.....	.....	.....	49.50	.....	.....
Cottonseed (41%)	54.25	53.00	51.00	52.75	.....	.....	45.00	49.00	51.75	50.00	.....	47.00	51.00	49.25	45.50	51.00
Cottonseed (36%)	48.50	49.50	47.00	49.00	42.50	42.00	40.50	45.00	47.50	46.50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Digester feeding tankage (60%)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	55.00	55.00	55.00	55.00	55.00	.....	.....
No. 1 alfalfa meal (medium)	.....	.....	.....	35.00	.....	.....	29.50	30.00	.....	28.50	.....	26.50	27.50	24.50	31.00	.....
Gluten feed	48.50	47.35	45.25	46.00	.....	.....	.....	44.25	45.25	41.40	.....	.....	.....	45.70	.....	.....
White hominy feed	38.25	37.50	.....	39.50	39.00	.....	.....	34.00	35.25	31.50	.....	31.00	28.00	32.00	.....	.....
Yellow hominy feed	36.25	35.50	.....	38.50	39.00	.....	.....	34.00	32.50	30.50	.....	.....	28.00	.....	.....	.....
Ground barley	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	34.00	.....	33.00	.....	.....	.....	31.50	[1] 38.00	.....
Dried beet pulp	36.00	.....	32.50	35.00	.....	39.00	.....	38.00	35.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	37.50	37.00

[1] Rolled.

Seeds

Production of Vegetable Seeds Increased.

Estimates of the 1923 production of vegetable seeds disclose many marked changes from 1922. Abandonment of acreage on the whole was about the same as usual, but yields in many cases were reduced. With several items, however, this was offset by increased acreages and resulted in a normal production. Outstanding increases in production are as follows: Dwarf snap beans, 50%; garden beets, 50%; cabbage, 20%; carrot, 18%; cucumber, 85%; muskmelon, 40%; onion seed, 100%; and garden peas, 40%. Lettuce is indicated to be less than half the 1922 production. Watermelon seed production is 40% less than last year but is only 10 per cent below the average for the past 5 years. A 20 per cent smaller production for onion sets is reported. Radish seed returns were reduced appreciably while spinach and tomato production were reduced 35%. The production of sweet corn is expected to be unchanged from last year but the crop is reported to be of poor quality in some sections because of unfavorable weather for curing.

The accompanying table shows the acreage planted, abandoned, and harvested, and the production for 1923. Production figures for 1922 are given for comparison.

Acreage and Production of Vegetable Seeds.

[Subject to revision.]

Kind of seed.	1923 acreage.			Production.	
	Planted.	Abandoned.	Harvested.	1923	1922
	Acres.	*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Pounds.*	*Pounds.*
Beans, dwarf snap	42,123	756	41,367	28,333,000	19,600,000
Beans, garden pole	5,284	85	5,199	4,310,000	4,074,000
Beets, garden	699	47	652	652,500	429,000
Cabbage	1,167	170	997	448,000	367,600
Carrot	750			215,000	182,900
Celery	115			42,300	33,150
Cucumber	5,037	286	4,751	1,312,000	707,000
Kale	108	61	47	42,700	45,000
Lettuce	2,260			380,000	856,000
Muskmelon	2,720	122	2,598	501,000	359,000
Watermelon	8,450	691	7,759	711,000	1,200,000
Onion seed	2,138			935,000	450,000
Onion sets	2,753	331	2,422	23,200,000	30,900,000
Parsley	80			25,000	43,900
Parsnip	147			73,000	84,000
Pepper	503	6	497	26,300	45,800
Peas, garden	86,659	990	85,669	66,300,000	46,600,000
Pumpkin	349	27	322	47,000	119,800
Radish	3,400			600,000	473,000
Spinach	234	16	218	197,000	313,800
Squash, summer	664	30	634	115,500	113,500
Squash, winter	1,525	210	1,315	182,000	65,500
Sweet corn	8,690	627	8,063	8,825,000	8,748,600
Tomato	2,592	164	2,428	150,000	238,000
Turnip, English	385	81	304	220,000	15,100
Turnip, Swede	75	45	30	23,000	45,800

Lespedeza Seed Selling Slowly.

The movement of lespedeza seed is below normal. The crop is smaller than in 1922 and growers are not selling freely although the market price is advancing. Reports indicate that the larger portion of the supply is being pooled by growers' associations.

Ten per cent of the crop has been sold by growers in northern Mississippi and a smaller percentage in southwestern Mississippi. In Louisiana, 15% had moved from growers' hands up to December 5, but because of the short crop in that section the total quantity placed on the market is small. Movement has been freer in Madison County, Ala., where 60% of the crop has been sold.

Prices average $1–$2 per 100 lbs. higher than were being offered growers a month ago, most of this advance occurring since December 1. A range of $12–$18 is reported in northern Mississippi for recleaned seed. Most offers, however, are $16–$18.

Prices being paid in Louisiana average around $17.50 per 100 lbs. The range is from $16–$22 with most shippers offering only $16. The low price of $14 prevails in north Alabama.

The quality of the new crop lespedeza seed is much better than that of last year in northern Mississippi and Alabama, but is not so good in Louisiana.

Imports of Forage Plant Seeds.

Permitted Entry Under the Seed Importation Act.

Kind of seed.	Dec. 1–15, 1923.	July 1 to Dec. 15, 1923.
	Pounds.	*Pounds.*
Alfalfa	[1] 717,200	6,581,700
Canada blue grass	78,900	276,800
Alsike clover	335,800	6,518,200
Crimson clover	110,200	5,615,900
Red clover	[2] 1,400,000	2,241,800
White clover	155,200	677,200
Clover mixtures		22,700
Meadow fescue		100
Broomcorn-millet	249,400	560,900
Grass mixtures		100
Orchard grass	66,100	543,300
Rape	[3] 676,700	4,152,600
English rye grass	231,200	927,600
Italian rye grass	160,300	645,500
Hairy vetch	230,600	1,137,700
Spring vetch	43,700	565,500

Not Subject to the Seed Importation Act.

Bent grass	35,100	106,000
Biennial white-flowered sweet clover	387,200	1,311,300
Biennial yellow-flowered sweet clover		58,500
Chewing fescue	112,300	839,800
Crested dog's-tail	27,300	46,400
Rhodes grass		7,700
Rough-stalked meadow grass	5,500	13,300
Sweet vernal grass		400
Tall paspalum		4,400
Velvet grass		19,400
Wood meadow grass	800	6,300
Yarrow		500
Other fescues	29,100	306,700

[1] Mostly from Argentina and France, some from Germany and South Africa, one lot from Canada.
[2] Mostly from France, considerable from Chile and England, small amount from Italy, Canada, and Denmark.
[3] All from Holland.

Red Clover Seed Prices and Movement.

State or section.	Prices offered growers per 100 lbs. basis clean seed.				Percentage of each crop sold by—			
	Dec. 6, 1921.	Dec. 5, 1922.	Nov. 27, 1923.	Dec. 11, 1923.	Dec. 6, 1921.	Dec. 5, 1922.	Nov. 27, 1923.	Dec. 11, 1923.
Southern Michigan	$16.25	$18.20	$18.30	$18.25	65	60	60	65
Northern Illinois	15.75	18.55	22.00	22.35	75	55	40	50
Central Illinois	15.95	17.65	22.00	22.00	60	70	50	60
Northern Indiana	16.10	18.70	19.65	19.80	75	70	60	65
Central Indiana	16.90	18.15	20.00	20.00	55	60	45	50
Southern Indiana	16.80	16.30	21.95	21.00	45	55	45	50
Northwestern Ohio	17.05	18.45	19.55	19.55	75	70	55	60
Southwestern Ohio	17.65	18.90	21.65	21.60	70	60	40	45
Minnesota	15.00	17.15	18.55	18.65	70	70	75	80
Northeastern Wisconsin	15.65	18.10	18.65	19.80	55	45	60	65
Western Wisconsin	16.90	17.75	19.80	19.20	40	60	60	65
Southern Wisconsin	16.90	18.23	20.30	20.05	55	55	60	70
Northeastern Iowa	15.50	18.10	20.90	20.90	60	60	65	70
Southeastern Iowa	15.70	17.90	21.80	22.15	70	55	60	65
Northeastern Missouri	15.90	16.70	20.50	20.75	45	65	50	55
Southern Idaho	15.00	17.50	19.00	18.50	85	90	70	85

Alsike Clover Seed Prices and Movement.

State or section.	Prices offered growers per 100 lbs. basis clean seed.				Percentage of each crop sold by—			
	Dec. 6, 1921.	Dec. 5, 1922.	Nov. 27, 1923.	Dec. 11, 1923.	Dec. 6, 1921.	Dec. 5, 1922.	Nov. 27, 1923.	Dec. 11, 1923.
Western New York	$15.00		$13.00	$13.50	75	70	75	80
Southern Michigan	13.85	$13.45	13.50	13.30	80	65	60	65
Northern Illinois	13.60	15.10	13.25	13.75	70	70	65	70
Central Illinois	15.00	13.60	14.95	14.10	75	70	70	75
Northern Indiana	13.85	14.65	14.15	14.50	75	80	60	70
Central Indiana	13.60	15.00	14.55	14.50	70	75	50	60
Northwestern Ohio	13.05	13.00	12.90	13.55	70	70	75	80
Southwestern Ohio	14.15	15.00	13.30	13.50	65	85	70	75
Northeastern Wisconsin	14.20	12.75	11.95	12.50	60	65	70	75
Western Wisconsin			13.00	13.15			40	45
Southern Wisconsin	13.65	13.30	12.40	12.25	65	60	55	60
Southern Idaho	13.50	13.85	13.00	13.00	95	95	95	95

Cotton

Prices Decline Again.

Cotton prices during the week December 10–15, witnessed violent fluctuations with net prices a little over ½¢ per pound below the close of the previous week. December future contracts on the New York Cotton Exchange closed at 35.85¢ on December 12, compared with the close on December 15, of 33.85¢. Saturday's prices were about 4¢ per pound lower than the high point reached so far this season. General liquidation was held largely responsible for the decline. The Crop Reporting Board of the Department of Agriculture estimates the total production for this season at 10,081,000 bales of 500 lbs. gross weight, which estimate was a little in excess of trade opinions.

The wide fluctuations have had an unsettling effect on the dry goods markets with the result that buyers and sellers are quite apart in their views as to dry goods values at this time.

December future contracts on the New York Cotton Exchange closed at 33.85¢, compared with 34.48¢ the previous week and 37.70¢, the high point reached so far this season. The average of the quotations for Middling cotton in 10 of the designated spot markets on December 15, was 33.09¢ per lb. compared with 33.62¢ on December 8, and 25.44¢ for the corresponding day in 1922.

Domestic mill consumption for the month of November was given by the Department of Commerce as 531,631 bales, compared with 541,825 bales in October, and 579,190 bales during November of last year. The export figures for November were also full, amounting to 770,002 bales against 781,772 bales in October, and 858,337 bales in November of last year.

Closing Future Prices on the Future Exchanges.

December 15, 1923, with Comparisons.

Month.	New York.					New Orleans.				
	Dec. 15, 1923.	Dec. 16, 1922.	Dec. 17, 1921.	Dec. 18, 1920.	Dec. 13, 1919.	Dec. 15, 1923.	Dec. 16, 1922.	Dec. 17, 1921.	Dec. 18, 1920.	Dec. 13, 1919.
	Cts.	*Cts.*	*Cts.*	*Cts.*	*Cts.*	*Cts.*	*Cts.*	*Cts.*	*Cts.*	*Cts.*
December	33.85	25.47	18.45	15.12	36.50	33.08	25.30	17.30	14.03	38.90
January	33.16	25.44	18.25	15.16	35.55	33.16	25.29	17.36	14.30	36.50
March	33.54	25.66	18.05	15.15	33.40	33.30	25.39	17.46	14.55	33.68
May	33.70	25.79	17.64	15.25	31.95	33.22	25.37	17.23	14.75	32.18
July	33.00	25.56	17.15	15.30	30.45	32.60	25.18	16.80	14.81	30.55

Receipts at 10 Designated Spot Markets, August 1–December 14, 1923, and Stocks on December 14, 1923, with Comparisons.

[Compiled from commercial reports.]

Market.	Receipts.				Stocks.			
	Aug. 1–Dec. 16, 1921.	Aug. 1–Dec. 15, 1922.	Aug. 1–Dec. 14, 1923.	5-year average Aug. 1–Dec. 15, 1918–1922.	Dec. 16, 1921.	Dec. 15, 1922.	Dec. 14, 1923.	5-year average Dec. 15, 1918–1922.
	1,000 bales.	*1,000 bales.*	*1,000 bales.*	*1,000 bales.*	*1,000 bales.*	*1,000 bales.*	*1,000 bales.*	*1,000 bales.*
Norfolk	198	179	283	162	133	120	99	105
Augusta	207	171	143	239	144	74	52	146
Savannah	396	251	242	433	162	75	85	201
Montgomery	41	51	44	48	32	21	17	27
New Orleans	595	747	665	622	384	268	278	402
Memphis	547	658	461	473	268	184	129	276
Little Rock	113	147	88	114	60	60	46	53
Dallas	116	48	94	56	48	18	20	23
Houston	1,662	2,202	2,773	1,491	311	383	405	308
Galveston	1,484	1,743	2,072	1,322	389	401	402	355
Total	5,359	6,197	6,865	4,960	1,931	1,604	1,533	1,896

Stocks of Government-Classed Cotton at Future Markets.

Inspected cotton, Government-classed, reported in warehouses at the ports of New York and New Orleans, of the grades tenderable on future contracts made on the exchanges in these markets subject to section 5 of the United States cotton futures act, as amended.

Grade.	New York.			New Orleans.		
	Dec. 14, 1923.	Dec. 15, 1922.	Dec. 16, 1921.	Dec. 14, 1923.	Dec. 15, 1922.	Dec. 16, 1921.
	Bales.	*Bales.*	*Bales.*	*Bales.*	*Bales.*	*Bales.*
No. 1 or Midling Fair	1	7	.....	.....	.....	3
No. 2 or Strict Good Middling	95	1,099	197	32	97	277
No. 3 or Good Middling	2,284	8,319	3,018	257	1,720	2,792
No. 4 or Strict Middling	13,858	13,197	10,146	1,941	23,589	14,656
No. 5 or Middling	31,937	10,820	19,380	5,272	12,574	27,901
No. 6 or Strict Low Middling	22,475	4,243	22,291	8,436	3,124	13,583
No. 7 or Low Middling	4,703	455	5,271	2,426	158	4,447
No. 3 Spotted or Good Middling Spotted	617	.....	.....	33	.....	.....
No. 4 Spotted or Strict Middling Spotted	2,195	.....	.....	691	.....	.....
No. 5 Spotted or Middling Spotted	1,385	.....	.....	3,407	.....	.....
No. 2 Tinged or Strict Good Middling Yellow Tinged	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
No. 3 Tinged or Good Middling Yellow Tinged	128	1,264	1,973	215	810	2,495
No. 4 Tinged or Strict Middling Yellow Tinged	165	392	2,521	158	348	2,520
No. 3 Stained or Good Middling Yellow Stained	10	8	14	5	3	2
No. 3 Gray or Good Middling Gray	217	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	80,071	39,804	64,811	22,873	42,423	68,679

Total stocks of cotton, all kinds, reported on December 14, at the port of New York were 121,327 bales; on December 15, 1922, 67,317 bales; and on December 16, 1921, 87,066 bales.

Cotton Movement, August 1–December 14, 1923, and Stocks December 14, 1923, with Comparisons.

(Compiled from commercial reports.)

	Aug. 1–Dec. 12, 1913.	Aug. 1–Dec. 12, 1919.	Aug. 1–Dec. 17, 1920.	Aug. 1–Dec. 16, 1921.	Aug. 1–Dec. 15, 1922.	Aug. 1–Dec. 14, 1923.	5-year average Aug. 1–Dec. 15, 1918–1922.	Per cent this year is of 5-year average.
	1,000 bales.	*1,000 bales.*	*1,000 bales.*	*1,000 bales.*	*1,000 bales.*	*1,000 bales.*	*1,000 bales.*	*Per cent.*
Port receipts	6,209	3,165	3,111	3,181	3,713	4,266	3,106	137.0
Port stocks	985	1,620	1,406	1,365	1,084	1,110	1,377	80.6
Interior receipts	4,504	3,582	3,654	4,475	5,206	5,155	1,032	128.0
Interior stocks	942	1,338	1,640	1,593	1,426	1,179	1,468	80.3
Into sight	8,641	5,554	5,528	5,711	6,776	7,104	5,751	123.5
Northern spinners' takings	1,218	1,148	678	1,203	1,088	899	1,008	89.2
Southern spinners' takings	1,320	1,898	1,116	1,868	2,364	1,989	1,827	108.1
World's visible supply of American cotton	4,349	4,531	4,722	4,642	3,899	3,359	4,216	79.7

Stocks of American Cotton at European Ports, December 14, 1923, with Comparisons.

[Compiled from commercial reports.]

At—	Dec. 12, 1913.	Dec. 14, 1917.	Dec. 13, 1918.	Dec. 12, 1919.	Dec. 17, 1920.	Dec. 16, 1921.	Dec. 15, 1922.	Dec. 14, 1923.	5-year average, Dec. 15, 1918–1922.
	1,000 bales.	*1,000 bales.*	*1,000 bales.*	*1,000 bales.*	*1,000 bales.*	*1,000 bales.*	*1,000 bales.*	*1,000 bales.*	*1,000 bales.*
Liverpool	616	268	177	628	562	562	431	277	472
Manchester	56	27	42	82	81	59	41	42	61
Continent	743	208	85	199	364	654	384	282	337
Total	1,415	503	304	909	1,007	1,275	856	601	870

Daily Closing Quotations for No. 5 or Middling Spot Cotton at 10 Designated Spot Markets, Week of December 10-15, 1923, with Comparisons.

Market.	Dec. 10–15, 1923.						Dec. 11–16, 1922.					
	Mon.	Tue.	Wed	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	Cts.	*Cts.*	*Cts.*	*Cts.*	*Cts.*	*Cts.*	*Cts.*	*Cts.*	*Cts.*	*Cts.*	*Cts.*	*Cts.*
Norfolk	32.25	32.88	34.25	34.19	33.38	32.63	24.75	25.00	25.38	25.56	25.38	25.50
Augusta	32.25	33.00	34.38	34.25	33.63	33.00	24.88	25.13	25.38	25.56	25.25	25.50
Savannah	32.05	32.94	34.50	34.02	33.40	32.66	25.00	25.25	25.50	25.81	25.50	25.68
Montgomery	31.88	32.63	34.00	34.00	33.38	32.75	24.50	24.75	25.00	25.38	25.13	25.13
New Orleans	33.00	33.38	34.50	34.75	34.75	34.00	25.00	25.00	25.50	25.50	25.50	25.50
Memphis	33.75	33.75	34.00	34.75	34.50	33.75	25.00	25.00	25.25	25.75	25.75	25.75
Little Rock	33.25	33.50	34.00	34.50	34.25	33.25	25.00	25.00	25.25	25.50	25.50	25.50
Dallas	31.50	32.55	34.10	33.85	33.10	32.45	24.15	24.45	24.70	24.95	24.65	24.85
Houston	32.30	33.15	34.65	34.50	33.80	33.10	24.90	25.15	25.40	25.60	25.30	25.45
Galveston	32.50	33.25	35.00	34.70	34.00	33.35	24.95	25.20	25.45	25.65	23.35	25.55
Average	32.47	33.10	34.34	34.35	33.82	33.09	24.81	24.99	25.28	25.53	25.33	25.44

Spot Quotations for No. 5 or Middling Upland Cotton at New York on December 14, for Each of the Past 32 Years.

	Cents.		*Cents.*		*Cents.*		*Cents.*
1892	9.75	1900	10.00	1908	9.10	1916	18.30
1893	8.00	1901	8.50	1909	15.10	1917	30.70
1894	5.75	1902	8.55	1910	15.15	1918	29.20
1895	8.56	1903	12.45	1911	9.45	1919	38.00
1896	7.12	1904	8.15	1912	13.20	1920	15.80
1897	5.88	1905	12.00	1913	13.25	1921	18.00
1898	5.81	1906	10.45	1914	7.35	1922	25.75
1899	7.69	1907	12.10	1915	12.25	1923	35.00

Premium Staple Cotton.

A good demand for premium staple cotton was reported at New Orleans and a fair demand at Memphis. Some of the sales reported in these markets during the week December 10–15, were as follows:

	Cents.
New Orleans:	
No. 5 or Middling, $1\frac{1}{16}$ ins	36
No. 5 or Middling to No. 4 or Strict Middling, $1\frac{1}{16}$ ins	36
No. 6 or Strict Low Middling, $1\frac{1}{16}$ ins	35
No. 4 or Strict Middling to No. 3 or Good Middling, $1\frac{1}{16}$ ins	35
No. 6 or Strict Low Middling to No. 5 or Middling, $1\frac{1}{16}$ to $1\frac{1}{16}$ ins	35
No. 6 or Strict Low Middling to No. 5 or Middling, $1\frac{1}{16}$ to $1\frac{1}{16}$ ins	35½
No. 6 or Strict Low Middling to No. 5 or Middling, $1\frac{1}{16}$ ins	36
No. 5 or Middling, $1\frac{1}{16}$ ins	35
No. 5 or Middling to No. 4 or Strict Middling, $1\frac{1}{16}$ ins	34¾
No. 5 or Middling to No. 4 or Strict Middling, full $1\frac{1}{16}$ ins	36
Memphis:	
No. 5 or Middling, $1\frac{1}{16}$ ins	35½
No. 4 or Strict Middling, $1\frac{1}{16}$ ins	40

Japanese Heavy Purchasers of Chinese Cotton.

Recent large purchases of Chinese cotton by the Japanese direct from native Chinese dealers to replace the stocks destroyed by the earthquake makes it impossible for exporters in Tientsin to fill their contracts with importers in the United States, cables Consul Huston at that station under date of November 27. The Japanese use Tientsin cotton exclusively for bedding, says the consul. With the destruction of stocks the Japanese began purchasing new supplies direct from the native Chinese dealers at high prices. Most of this cotton had been previously contracted for by foreign exporters for shipment abroad. Exporters in Tientsin are therefore urging that foreign dealers grant extensions on their contracts to March 1.

Spot Cotton Quotations for December 15, and Sales During Week of December 10-15, 1923.

Price of No. 5 or Middling spot cotton for December 15, the commercial differences in price between No. 5 and other grades of American Upland cotton at each of the 10 markets named, and average differences and prices for the corresponding day in previous years, together with the total number of bales sold during the week of December 10-15, 1923, in each of the markets and total for all the markets, with comparisons, as reported by the cotton exchanges.

Grade.	Norfolk.	Augusta.	Savannah.	Montgomery.	Memphis.	Little Rock.	Dallas.	Houston.	Galveston.	New Orleans.	Average. Dec. 15, 1923.	Dec. 16. 1922.	Dec. 17, 1921.	Dec. 18, 1920.	Dec. 13, 1919.	Dec. 14, 1918.	Dec. 15, 1917.
White standards:	*On.*[1]	*On.*	*On.*	*On.*	*On.*	*On.*	*On.*	*On.*	*On.*	*On.*	*On.*	*On.*	*On.*	*On.*	*On.*	*On.*	*On.*
No. 1 or Middling Fair	175	162	225	162	200	175	175	225	185	162	185	119	218	338	305	160	101
No. 2 or Strict Good Middling	125	137	175	137	175	150	150	175	160	137	152	92	168	283	238	116	73
No. 3 or Good Middling	100	112	125	112	150	125	125	125	135	112	122	65	108	220	173	81	50
No. 4 or Strict Middling	50	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	100	75	75	39	58	118	95	41	25
No. 5 or Middling	32.63	33.00	32.66	32.75	33.75	33.25	32.45	33.10	33.35	34.00	33.09	25.44	17.73	14.72	38.68	28.36	28.90
	Off.[1]	*Off.*	*Off.*	*Off.*	*Off.*	*Off.*	*Off.*	*Off.*	*Off.*	*Off.*	*Off.*	*Off.*	*Off.*	*Off.*	*Off.*	*Off.*	*Off.*
No. 6 or Strict Low Middling	100	125	125	125	100	125	125	150	150	150	128	39	91	230	233	110	35
No. 7 or Low Middling	225	250	275	250	250	275	250	300	300	300	268	81	215	468	603	316	90
No. 8 or Strict Good Ordinary [2]	325	375	425	375	450	450	350	450	500	450	415	138	338	643	885	533	148
No. 9 or Good Ordinary [2]	450	500	575	500	600	600	450	600	700	600	558	200	440	800	1,123	701	201
Spotted:	*On.*	*On.*	*On.*	*On.*	*On.*	*On.*	*On.*		*On.*	*On.*	*On.*						
No. 3 or Good Middling	50	50	63	50	100	50	50	Even.	60	50	52						
	Off.	*Off.*	*Off.*	*Off.*		*Off.*	*Off.*			*Off.*	*Off.*						
No. 4 or Strict Middling	Even.	Even.	Even.	Even.	25	25	25	50	25	Even.	5						
No. 5 or Middling	75	100	100	75	*Off* 50	100	100	150	*Off* 75	125	95						
No. 6 or Strict Low Middling [2]	175	175	200	200	100	200	200	300	235	300	209						
No. 7 or Low Middling [2]	275	300	300	325	300	325	300	450	395	500	347						
Yellow Tinged:	*On.*	*On.*	*On.*	*On.*	*On.*	*On.*	*On.*		*On.*	*On.*	*On.*						
No. 2 or Strict Good Middling	13	38	13	75	25	25	50	10	25	19							
	Off.	*Off.*	*Off.*	*Off.*		*Off.*	*Off.*		*Off.*	*Off.*	*Off.*						
No. 3 or Good Middling	25	Even.	25	25	50	25	25	100	15	25	22	3	46	103	233	38	Even.
No. 4 or Strict Middling	75	125	75	63	*Off* 25	50	75	150	50	75	76	44	136	208	338	95	25
No. 5 or Middling [2]	175	250	175	150	100	200	175	300	150	200	188	123	236	358	495	170	52
No. 6 or Strict Low Middling [2]	300	375	300	275	150	300	250	450	320	350	307	175	350	553	705	285	90
No. 7 or Low Middling [2]	400	500	400	400	350	400	325	600	490	550	442	230	450	780	990	480	138
Light Yellow Stained:																	
No. 3 or Good Middling	75	100	75	75	Even.	75	75	200	90	100	87						
No. 4 or Strict Middling [2]	125	150	150	125	75	125	150	250	125	175	145						
No. 5 or Middling [2]	200	200	200	200	150	175	225	350	225	250	218						
Yellow Stained:																	
No. 3 or Good Middling	113	150	150	125	50	125	100	300	165	150	143	81	220	325	480	200	56
No. 4 or Strict Middling [2]	175	200	200	175	125	175	150	350	200	250	200	153	310	440	620	285	82
No. 5 or Middling [2]	225	250	250	250	200	225	200	450	300	350	270	210	415	580	755	395	116
Gray:					*On.*				*On.*								
No. 3 or Good Middling	50	38	35	38	50	50	50	50	10	50	30						
No. 4 or Strict Middling [2]	100	88	85	88	*Off* 25	100	100	100	*Off* 25	100	81						
No. 5 or Middling [2]	150	150	150	138	100	150	150	200	150	150	149						
Blue Stained:																	
No. 3 or Good Middling [2]	125	150	125	113	100	125	125	150	90	150	125	105	268	405	588	253	63
No. 4 or Strict Middling [2]	175	225	175	163	175	150	175	200	125	200	176	153	358	535	695	360	94
No. 5 or Middling [2]	325	300	250	238	250	225	250	300	250	300	269	203	450	660	835	480	127
Sales for week, bales	3,005	1,032	1,573	536	3,800	4,957	26,960	23,957	10,855	14,956	[3] 91,631	[3] 68,716	[3] 67,278	[3,4] 62,192	[3] 69,762	[3] 104,894	[3] 86,228

[1] The differences are stated in terms of points or hundredths of a cent per pound. By "On" is meant that the stated number of points is to be added to the price of No. 5 and by "Off" is meant that the stated number of points is to be subtracted from the price of No. 5.

[2] These grades are not tenderable on future contracts made subject to section 5 of the United States cotton futures act, as amended, on the future exchanges at New York and New Orleans.

[3] Total sales. Sales from August 1 to December 15, 1923, amounted to 2,812,169 bales, compared with 2,559,972 bales during the corresponding period in 1922, and 1,761,921 bales in 1921.

[4] Excludes sales at Dallas.

Monthly Summary of American Cotton Consumption.

November, 1923, with Comparisons.

[Exclusive of linters.]

Month.	1913–14	1919–20	1920–21	1921–22	1922–23	1923–24	5-year average 1918–19 to 1922–23.	Per cent this year is of 5-year average.
	Bales.	*Bales.*	*Bales.*	*Bales.*	*Bales.*	*Bales.*	*Bales.*	*P. ct.*
Aug.	432,350	497,319	483,560	467,059	526,380	491,604	501,858	98.0
Sept.	442,435	491,069	457,967	484,718	494,013	483,852	483,546	100.1
Oct.	511,923	556,041	401,325	494,317	533,744	541,825	485,156	111.7
Nov.	456,356	491,250	332,712	527,940	579,190	531,631	477,341	111.9
Total 4 mos.	1,843,064	2,035,679	1,675,564	1,974,034	2,133,327	2,048,912	1,947,901	105.2
Dec.	456,262	511,711	295,292	510,925	529,342	.....	464,036	.....
Jan.	517,299	591,921	366,463	526,698	610,306	.....	530,454	.....
Feb.	455,231	515,699	395,115	472,336	566,805	.....	476,650	.....
Mar.	493,354	575,789	438,218	519,761	624,264	.....	518,303	.....
Apr.	499,646	566,914	409,247	443,509	576,514	.....	494,412	.....
May.	466,744	541,377	440,714	495,337	620,854	.....	517,243	.....
June.	446,115	555,155	461,917	509,218	542,026	.....	508,529	.....
July.	448,333	525,489	410,142	458,002	462,654	.....	473,323	.....
Total 12 mos.	5,626,078	6,419,734	4,892,672	5,909,820	6,666,092	.....	5,930,851	.....

Average Premiums for Staple Lengths of the Grade No. 5 or Middling, December 15, with Comparisons.

	New Orleans.			Memphis.		
	Dec. 15, 1923.	Dec. 16, 1922.	Dec. 17, 1921.	Dec. 15, 1923.	Dec. 16, 1922.	Dec. 17, 1921.
	Cents.	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*
No. 5 short staple..	31.00	25.50	17.25	33.75	25.75	18.00
Length.	*Points.*	*Points.*	*Points.*	*Points.*	*Points.*	*Points.*
1 1/16 ins.	100	150	225	75	75	200
1 1/8 ins.	175	375	600	175	225	600
1 3/16 ins.	275	550	1,000	325	325	900
1 1/4 ins.	400	800	1,400	425	525	1,200
1 5/16 ins.	500	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1 3/8 ins.	600	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Quotations reported on December 14 for Pima American-Egyptian cotton f. o. b. New England mill points were as follows: No. 1 grade 45¢ per lb.; No. 2, 44¢; and No. 3, 43¢. A year ago Pima cotton on the same terms was quoted at 37½¢ per lb. for No. 1 and 36½¢ for No. 2.

Exports of American Cotton.

August 1 to December 14, 1923, with Comparisons.

[Compiled from Government and commercial reports.]

To—	Aug. 1–Dec. 12, 1913.	Aug. 1–Dec. 17, 1920.	Aug. 1–Dec. 16, 1921.	Aug. 1–Dec. 15, 1922.	Aug. 1–Dec. 14, 1923.	4-year average Aug. 1–Dec. 15, 1919–1922.	Per cent this year is of 4-year average.
	Bales.	*Bales.*	*Bales.*	*Bales.*	*Bales.*	*Bales.*	*Per cent.*
Great Britain...	1,684,823	831,789	684,275	823,077	944,346	877,186	107.6
France.	724,089	329,504	354,208	388,462	396,477	322,387	123.0
Germany.	1,517,892	414,086	602,880	458,744	516,260	417,474	123.7
Italy.	213,465	177,705	168,354	237,093	245,973	186,797	131.7
Japan.	160,162	40,836	463,396	234,968	305,286	225,664	135.0
China.	.....	2,720	62,530	5,625	14,425	17,744	81.3
Spain.	143,636	145,834	144,581	160,527	104,651	137,656	76.0
Belgium.	91,607	104,068	79,500	100,338	81,715	89,946	90.8
Canada [1].	24,724	35,454	41,177	35,487	29,955	36,454	82.2
Other countries.	106,386	108,056	93,129	101,313	137,517	115,246	119.0
Total.	4,666,784	2,190,052	2,694,030	2,545,634	2,776,605	2,426,554	114.0

[1] Exports to Canada are for the period Aug. 1 to Oct. 31.

Exports for the week ending December 14, amounted to 118,136 bales, compared with 271,215 bales the previous week, 111,904 bales for the corresponding week in 1922, and 315,638 bales for the week ending December 12, 1913.

Foreign Crops and Markets

Agricultural Imports Exceed Exports.

Imports of agricultural products into the United States for the year ending June 30, 1923, exceeded in value the exports of agricultural products from the United States, probably for the first time in the history of the country.

The agricultural imports, including forest products, in the fiscal year 1922–23 were valued at $2,315,000,000, as compared with corresponding exports valued at $1,927,000,000. Excluding forest products the corresponding totals were respectively $1,903,000,000 and $1,799,000,000. In the year ending June 30, 1922, agricultural imports, including forest products, were valued at $1,535,000,000, as compared with exports valued at $2,009,000,000, while excluding forest products the imports amounted to $1,285,000,000 and exports $1,915,000,000. In the year ending June 30, 1914, agricultural imports including forest products were valued at $1,080,000,000 and exports at $1,221,000,000, while excluding forest products the imports amounted to $924,000,000 and exports to $1,114,000,000. In earlier years the excess of exports of agricultural products was even greater. In 1902, for example, agricultural exports were more than double the agricultural imports.

The sudden reversal of the ratio of exports to imports in the past year is due chiefly to an increase in imports, although there has also been a decrease of about $100,000,000 in the value of agricultural exports. Taking the principal agricultural imports of 1922–23 in the order of magnitude, silk imports increased from $307,000,000 in the previous year to $414,000,000; sugar imports increased from $203,000,000 to $369,000,000; coffee from $149,000,000 to $182,000,000; crude rubber from $87,000,000 to $169,000,000; and wool from $46,000,000 to $167,000,000.

The decrease in agriculture exports is entirely accounted for by the decrease in exports of wheat from $280,000,000 in 1921–22 to $192,000,000 in 1922–23, and of corn from $116,000,000 to $75,000,000. Exports of pork products and of cotton for 1922–23 show material increases over the preceding year, but these increases are counterbalanced by decreases in exports of tobacco, sugar, and other products.

The Havre Cotton Market.

The features of the Havre cotton market for October were the increased seasonal arrivals and mill takings and the steady advance in prices, says Consul Davis B. Levis at that post under date of November 6. Imports during the month amounted to 101,147 bales, of which 98,374 bales were American, as compared with a total of 66,363 bales in September, of which amount 64,087 bales were American.

Mill takings in October amounted to 75,471 bales, an increase of 38,646 bales over September. Approximately 72,000 bales of this amount consisted of American cotton, which was an increase of 35,000 bales over the previous month.

Stocks on hand in Havre on November 1 showed an increase of 35,676 bales over those for October 1, having amounted to 73,496 bales. Stocks on hand on November 1, 1922, amounted to 131,000 bales and on the same date in 1921 to 180,753 bales. A considerable portion of the existing stocks is said to be unspinnable cotton remnants and cotton left over from past years. On November 1 there were 50,000 bales of American cotton afloat and bound for Havre as compared with 60,000 bales on November 1, 1922.

Chileans Interested in American Live Stock.

Chilean stockmen are coming to draw largely upon the United States for their blooded animals says Consul General C. F. Deichman at Valparaiso under date of November 15. In pre-war days practically all of the imported blooded animals came from Great Britain and the Continent but as the superior quality of American stock and the striking advances made along zootechnical lines in this country became better known an increasing demand has centered in the United States.

At the annual livestock exposition recently held in Santiago American Holstein-Fresian cattle, Red Duroc and Chester White hogs and numerous varieties of poultry were much in evidence and several of the animals imported from the United States took prizes.

Weather

Too Wet for Farm Work in Most of South.

The weather of the week ending December 18 was characterized by rather marked changes in temperature conditions and by wide temperature variations in different sections of the country. The first part of the week was cool in the Northwest, but the latter part was unseasonably warm, while in the Southwest persistently low temperatures prevailed. In the East moderately warm weather for the season prevailed during the first part, while the latter part was cool. The week, as a whole, had temperatures much above normal in the northern Great Plains where unseasonably warm weather has prevailed for many weeks, but in the Southwest the average weekly temperatures at some stations were about 20° below normal. Freezing weather extended as far South as central Georgia, south-central Mississippi, and nearly to the coast in eastern Texas, while light frost on the 14th reached the coast in Mississippi.

There was much cloudy and rainy weather throughout the Gulf States, except in Florida, with heavy rainfall in parts of central and northern Texas. Moderate to heavy rains fell also in the central Mississippi and Ohio Valley States, and in the lower western Lake region. Elsewhere precipitation was light, particularly in Central and Northern States from the upper Mississippi Valley westward, although rather heavy rain fell in Pacific coast districts from central California northward.

The weather was generally unfavorable for farm work, because of the persistent rains and wet soil, in nearly all of the Gulf States, though it was mostly favorable for growing crops. There was some damage by frost in Texas and slight harm was done to tender vegetation in some central Gulf districts, but no material damage was reported from the freeze in the south Atlantic area. There was sufficient rain to benefit crops in some of the dry areas of Florida, but moisture is still insufficient in much of the Peninsula. The warm weather in that State was rather unfavorable for shipping truck. The week was generally favorable for farm interests in the Middle and North Atlantic States where the snowfall early in the week melted rapidly.

Farm work was considerably interrupted in the Ohio Valley area because of the wet condition of the soil, particularly on lowlands, and there was some damage to ungathered corn and winter grains from flooded river bottoms. There was practically no snow cover in the Lake region and upper Mississippi Valley and the roads were in good condition for the season, facilitating marketing. It had become too dry, however, for grain in parts of the upper Mississippi Valley. In the lower Great Plains, including Kansas and Oklahoma, heavy rain or snow interfered with farm work, but in the northern Plain area another good week for all outdoor operations was experienced. The cold weather and snow cover was rather unfavorable for stock interests in parts of the Southwest, but elsewhere conditions continued generally favorable.

NO SNOW COVER IN PRINCIPAL WINTER WHEAT BELT.

Small grains.—Winter oats and other grains made satisfactory progress in Southern States, under the influence of the mostly mild and damp weather, while the seeding of oats was resumed in parts of Florida where it had been too dry for this work. The weather was favorable for grains also in the Atlantic coast area.

The ground continued bare of snow throughout the principal wheat-growing sections, but the weather was not severe enough to be materially harmful. There was some damage, however, from overflow at a few places in the Ohio Valley, particularly in Indiana, and there was rather too much moisture for wheat in parts of Missouri, while plants were turning yellow in some sections of southeastern Kansas because of continued wetness. Wheat fields were fairly well covered with snow in the Rocky Mountain section, and conditions as a rule continued favorable in the far Northwest. Showers in parts of California were beneficial for grain, but more moisture was still badly needed in much of that State where the germination of wheat, oats, and barley has been considerably retarded.

Corn and cotton.—Corn fields were soft and muddy quite generally in the Ohio Valley States, with a consequent interruption to husking, while there was some damage to corn in fields by flooding in the lower portions of the White and Wabash River Valleys in Indiana, with some overflow on bottomlands in Illinois. Husking that remains to be done made good progress in the northern Plains, but fields were too wet for much work in the southern Plains area.

A small amount of cotton remains in the fields in Texas and Oklahoma, and conditions during the week were generally unfavorable for picking in those States. Cotton opened well, and picking made good progress in Arizona, however, and the cooler weather in the Imperial Valley of California was favorable for this crop.

Truck and miscellaneous crops.—The cool, wet weather was generally unfavorable for truck crops in Texas, and there was some damage by frost to tender vegetation, but winter truck made fairly satisfactory progress in east Gulf States. Moderate showers in Florida favorably affected truck, but they were insufficient in some sections, while the mild temperature was unfavorable for celery and lettuce shipments, as well as for citrus growth. In the trucking districts of the South Atlantic States crops continued to show improvement, while winter truck as a rule was good in California, though peas needed rain. Satisfactory progress was made in stripping tobacco in the Ohio Valley, but cane harvest progressed slowly in Louisiana.

Ranges, pastures, and stock.—Ranges were largely snow covered in New Mexico during the week, and the snow drifted rather badly which, together with the unseasonably low temperatures, caused some shrinkage and injury to stock, but losses were not great, because of their good condition and a plentiful supply of feed. The weather was also unfavorable in western and northwestern Texas, particularly in the Panhandle and Pecos Valley, but stock appears to have withstood the unfavorable weather fairly well; in some instances cattle and sheep drifted with the storm.

Throughout the other great grazing districts of the West conditions were generally favorable, though considerable feeding was necessary in eastern Colorado and west-central Wyoming because of snow cover. There was little or no snow over the lower ranges in Montana and grazing conditions were fairly satisfactory in the western Plateau districts. Coast pastures in northern California were benefited by rain, but ranges remained short in most of that State because of dryness.

Cold in Southwest—Warm in North.

Early in the week there was a rather sharp drop in temperature in the Middle Atlantic Coast States, but it was warmer in the Northwest, with temperatures generally somewhat above normal in the interior valleys. It was cold for the season in the Plateau States. By the morning of the 13th it was much colder in the Central-Northern States and Rocky Mountain area, but warmer weather had overspread the eastern section of the country. The weather was persistently cold in the Southwest during much of the week, the minimum temperature reported from Roswell, N. Mex., on the morning of the 14th being 4° below zero, while in Texas freezing weather extended as far south as San Antonio. At the same time much colder weather had overspread the Eastern States, with temperatures considerably below normal, though the cool wave did not penetrate to the extreme Southeast. During the latter part of the week temperatures were moderate for the season in most sections of the country, although in the extreme upper Mississippi Valley and northern Great Plains readings were considerably above normal, and it continued unseasonably cold in eastern New Mexico.

During the first 24 hours of the week precipitation was general in the trans-Mississippi States from the southern portions of Iowa and Nebraska southward, and also in the Southwest. By the morning of the 13th, rains or snows had overspread the central Mississippi and Ohio Valley States, and the Lake region, and the following day had snow in the Middle and North Atlantic States, and rain in the south Atlantic and east Gulf areas, except in parts of the Florida Peninsula. The latter part of the week had generally fair weather, except for showers in the Southeast and some snowfall in the more northeastern districts.

Chart 1, page 664, shows that the temperatures for the week were largely above normal over the northern border States from the Great Lakes westward. The plus departures over the upper Mississippi Valley and the northern Great Plains ranged from 9° to 18°. Temperatures were greatly deficient over the southern Great Plains, Texas and New Mexico, the greatest deficiency being reported from Roswell, N. Mex., where the

minus departure from normal averaged 21°. The southern limit of freezing weather remained about the same as last week, although freezing was reported nearly to the coast in Texas.

Chart 2, page 664, indicates that rainfall was again moderate to generous from Texas to New England, amounts in excess of 2 inches being reported from eastern Texas and locally in Alabama, Georgia and Illinois. Precipitation was light from the Great Lakes westward, except along the immediate north Pacific coast, and none was reported from a large portion of the northern Great Plains, the central Rocky Mountain region, and the southern portions of Nevada, Arizona, and California.

Over nearly all portions of the country east of the Rocky Mountains the ground remains practically free of snow, the considerable falls toward the latter part of the week over portions of the Ohio Valley and eastward having mainly disappeared, and but little snow fell in New England and over the Great Lakes region. The heavy falls over New Mexico and portions of adjacent States at the beginning of the week have disappeared to some extent over the lower elevations, although over eastern New Mexico the depths still range up to 10 inches. In the western mountain section there were but few changes as compared with the amounts reported a week ago, except in the middle and southern Rocky Mountains, where decreases up to 1 foot appear to have occurred, doubtless from settling rather than melting. But little snow has accumulated in the high mountains of California, and in general the snow over the lower elevations of the western mountain districts is unusually light.

Weather in the Corn and Wheat Regions of Argentina.

The data including the table on this page show that somewhat lower temperatures prevailed, during the week ending December 17, in the southern wheat-producing section of Argentina, South America, but in the corn and northern wheat area the temperature was somewhat higher, though still slightly below normal. Rather heavy precipitation occurred in the corn section, the amount being about 40 per cent above normal, while the southern wheat districts had about two and one-half times the normal precipitation. Last week was comparatively dry in both areas.

November Temperature.

November, 1923, was mild for the season in the greater part of the country. The temperature for the month as a whole averaged much above normal from the western Lake region and upper Mississippi Valley westward to the Rocky Mountains, and moderately above normal from the Ohio Valley and Lake region eastward, the northern portion of the west Gulf area, and to the westward of the Rocky Mountains. Every week in the month was warm for the season in the Central Northern States, especially in the northern Great Plains where the temperatures were much above normal and where the monthly means were 9° to 13° higher than the seasonal average. Central North Dakota had as warm weather during the month as is experienced in an average November in extreme northern Kansas.

In the South Atlantic and immediate Gulf districts November was somewhat cooler than the normal, particularly in extreme southern Texas and central Florida, where the mean monthly temperatures were 3° or 4° below normal. It was unusually cool locally in central Wyoming, owing to the rapid radiation, due to an early snow cover. At Lander, Wyo., the temperature averaged 6° below normal, and a minimum temperature of 6° below zero was recorded as early as the first day of the month.

At the beginning of November killing frost had not occurred in the middle Atlantic coast districts south of New York nor in the Gulf States. During the first day or two of the month, however, killing frost was reported from New Jersey and southeastern Pennsylvania southward to North Carolina, and during the 9th and 10th it overspread practically the whole of South Carolina and Georgia and also the northern portions of Alabama and Mississippi. The next killing frost in the South occurred about the 30th and overspread Arkansas and the northern portions of the west Gulf States. At the close of the month the southern parts of Alabama and Mississippi, most of Louisiana, and southern Texas had not experienced killing frost. Usually it has occurred practically to the Gulf coast in all districts by the close of November.

Temperature and Precipitation for the Week December 12–18, 1923.

Districts and stations.	Temperature. Average.	Temperature. Departure from normal.	Precipitation. Total.	Precipitation. Departure from normal.
Atlantic Coast.	°	°	*Ins.*	*Ins.*
Portland, Me.	34	+6	0.1	−0.7
Northfield	26	+6	0.3	−0.3
Concord	32	+5	T.	−0.7
Boston	36	+4	0.1	−0.7
New Haven	38	+6	0.5	−0.4
Albany	34	+5	0.1	−0.5
Ithaca	32	+3	0.3	−0.3
Binghamton	34	+6	0.3	−0.3
New York	38	+3	0.2	−0.6
Scranton	36	+6	0.1	−0.4
Harrisburg	40	+7	0.2	−0.4
Philadelphia	40	+4	0.3	−0.4
Trenton	40	+6	0.3	−0.4
Atlantic City	42	+6	0.3	−0.6
Baltimore	42	+5	0.3	−0.5
Washington	41	+4	0.4	−0.4
Norfolk	45	+3	0.3	−0.4
Richmond	42	+1	0.5	−0.2
Lynchburg	42	+3	0.3	−0.5
Wytheville	40	+5	0.2	−0.6
Asheville	40	+2	0.9	0
Charlotte	42	−1	0.8	−0.1
Raleigh	44	+1	0.4	−0.4
Wilmington	48	−1	0.3	−0.3
Charleston	56	+4	1.9	+1.3
Columbia, S.C.	46	−1	1.1	+0.4
Augusta	50	+2	2.5	+1.9
Atlanta	46	+1	1.6	+0.5
Macon	50	+3	1.6	+0.6
Savannah	54	+2	1.2	+0.6
Thomasville	56	+3	0.5	−0.4
Gulf States.				
Jacksonville	60	+4	0.6	0
Miami	74	+6	0.3	−0.3
Key West	74	+4	0.1	−0.3
Tampa	70	+9	T.	−0.5
Pensacola	54	0	0.6	−0.4
Mobile	52	−1	1.7	+0.5
Montgomery	52	+3	2.5	+1.3
Anniston	48	+4	2.2	+1.1
Birmingham	48	+1	1.9	+0.8
Meridian	48	+1	1.6	+0.5
Vicksburg	48	−2	1.3	+0.2
New Orleans	56	0	0.9	−0.2
Shreveport	46	−3	0.8	−0.2
Little Rock	44	0	0.7	−0.3
Fort Smith	42	0	1.9	+1.1
Bentonville	38	0	1.4	+0.6
Oklahoma	36	−3	1.5	+1.0
Abilene	36	−9	0.4	+0.1
Fort Worth	42	−6	2.5	+2.1
Dallas	42	.....	3.1	.....
Palestine	44	−6	0.9	−0.1
Taylor	42	−9	2.6	+1.8
Galveston	52	−4	0.7	−0.1
Corpus Christi	48	−9	1.4	+1.1
San Antonio	46	−7	2.1	+1.6
Del Rio	44	−8	0.2	0
Ohio Valley and Tennessee.				
Memphis	44	0	1.0	0
Nashville	42	+1	1.2	+0.3
Chattanooga	44	+1	1.2	+0.2
Knoxville	42	+2	0.6	−0.3
Lexington	40	+3	0.6	−0.2
Louisville	38	0	0.8	+0.1
Evansville	40	+3	1.8	+0.8
Indianapolis	36	+4	1.9	+1.2
Cincinnati	36	+5	0.7	+0.1
Dayton	36	+3	1.5	+0.9
Columbus	36	+4	0.5	−0.1
Parkersburg	36	0	0.4	−0.3
Elkins	34	+1	0.5	−0.4
Pittsburgh	36	+2	0.2	−0.4
Upper Mississippi Valley.				
St. Paul	32	+13	T.	−0.2
La Crosse	34	+12	T.	−0.3
Madison	34	+11	0	−0.4
Charles City	34	+14	T.	−0.3
Dubuque	34	+9	0.1	−0.3
Davenport	36	+9	0.7	+0.3
Des Moines	38	+12	T.	−0.3
Keokuk	38	+8	0.9	+0.5
Peoria	36	+7	1.1	+0.5
Terre Haute	38	.....	1.4	.....
Springfield, Ill	36	+4	1.8	+1.2
Hannibal	36	+5	1.3	+0.8
St. Louis	38	+3	1.4	+0.9
Cairo	40	+2	2.3	+1.5
Lake Region.				
Canton	30	+7	0.4	−0.4
Syracuse	34	+6	0.2	−0.4
Oswego	34	+5	0.4	−0.4
Buffalo	36	+6	0.4	−0.4
Erie	36	+4	0.7	0
Cleveland	36	+5	0.7	+0.1
Toledo	36	+6	1.3	+0.7
Detroit	36	+7	1.2	+0.6
Saginaw	32	+5	0.3	−0.2
Alpena	32	+7	0.3	−0.2
Grand Rapids	36	+7	1.1	+0.5
Chicago	38	+8	0.8	+0.3
Fort Wayne	34	.....	1.2	.....
Milwaukee	34	+8	0.2	−0.3
Green Bay	32	+10	T.	−0.4
Escanaba	28	+6	0.1	−0.2
Ludington	34	.....	0.4	.....
Sault Ste. Marie	28	+7	0.7	+0.2
Marquette	30	+7	0	−0.5
Duluth	26	+10	T.	−0.3
Missouri Valley.				
Springfield, Mo.	36	0	1.6	+0.8
Columbia, Mo.	36	+3	1.4	+0.8
Kansas City	40	+8	0.7	+0.3
St. Joseph	36	.....	0.2	.....
Topeka	38	+6	0.4	+0.2
Iola	36	+3	0.8	+0.6
Wichita	38	+3	0.6	+0.4
Concordia	36	+6	0.1	0
North Platte	30	+3	0	−0.1
Lincoln	36	+9	0.1	−0.1
Omaha	38	+12	T.	−0.2
Sioux City	36	+13	T.	−0.2
Valentine	34	+9	T.	−0.1
Rapid City	38	+11	0	−0.1
Pierre	34	+12	0	−0.1
Huron	32	+13	0	−0.1
Moorhead	28	+16	0	−0.1
Devils Lake	26	+17	T.	−0.1
Bismarck	34	+19	T.	−0.1
Williston	32	+18	T.	−0.1
Mountain Region.				
Miles City	36	+14	0	−0.1
Havre	36	+15	0	−0.1
Kalispell	26	+1	T.	−0.4
Helena	30	+6	T.	−0.1
Yellowstone Park	24	+2	T.	−0.5
Sheridan	26	+3	0	.....
Lander	16	−3	0	−0.1
Cheyenne	30	+1	T.	−0.1
Denver	30	−2	T.	−0.1
Pueblo	32	0	T.	−0.1
Amarillo	28	−9	0.2	0
El Paso	34	−11	0.1	−0.1
Roswell	20	−21	0.1	0
Santa Fe	24	−7	0.2	0
Flagstaff	28	−1	0.1	−0.3
Phoenix	50	−2	0	−0.1
Yuma	54	−1	0	−0.1
Tonopah	36	+5	0	−0.2
Modena	26	−7	T.	−0.1
Salt Lake City	28	−4	0	−0.2
Winnemucca	30	0	T.	−0.2
Pocatello	28	−1	T.	−0.2
Boise	32	0	0.3	−0.1
Lewiston	38	0	T.	−0.4
Baker	28	0	T.	−0.3
Walla Walla	38	+2	0.1	−0.3
Spokane	34	+4	0.2	−0.4
Pacific Coast.				
Seattle	46	+4	0.8	−0.6
North Head	48	+3	1.7	+0.1
Portland, Oreg	44	+3	0.8	−0.8
Roseburg	44	+2	0.4	−0.8
Eureka	50	+2	1.0	−0.8
Red Bluff	46	0	0.6	−0.4
Sacramento	46	0	0.6	−0.1
San Francisco	50	−1	1.3	+0.4
Fresno	48	+2	T.	−0.3
San Luis Obispo	54	+1	0.2	−0.3
Los Angeles	60	+3	0	−0.7
San Diego	56	0	0	−0.4
Argentina, S. A.[1]				
Corn and northern wheat area	72	−1	1.3	+0.4
Southern wheat area	64	−6	1.6	+1.0

T. indicates trace. [1] For week ending Monday.

Chart 1.—Departure of Mean Temperature from the Normal, Week Ending 8 a. m., December 18, 1923.

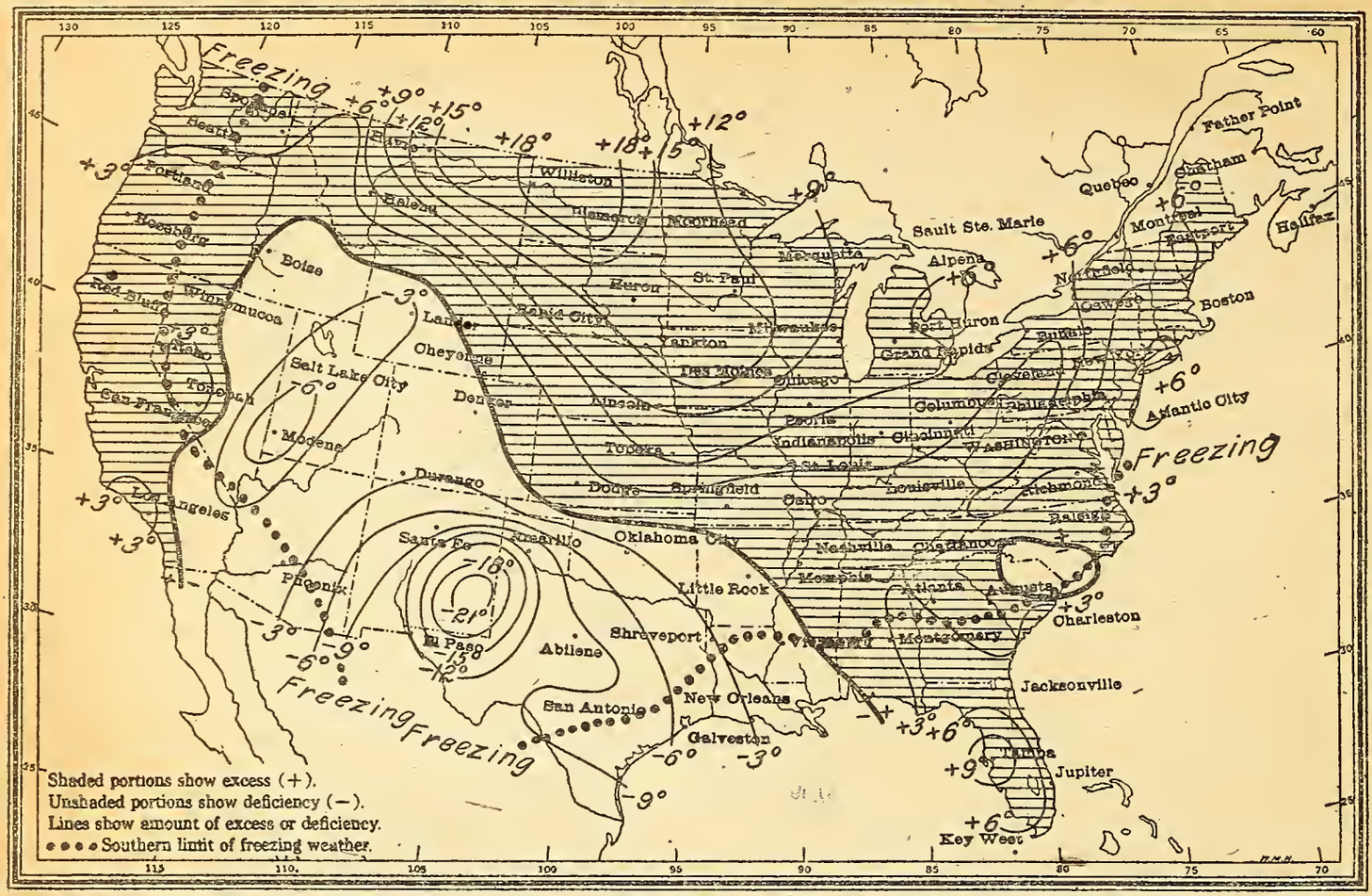
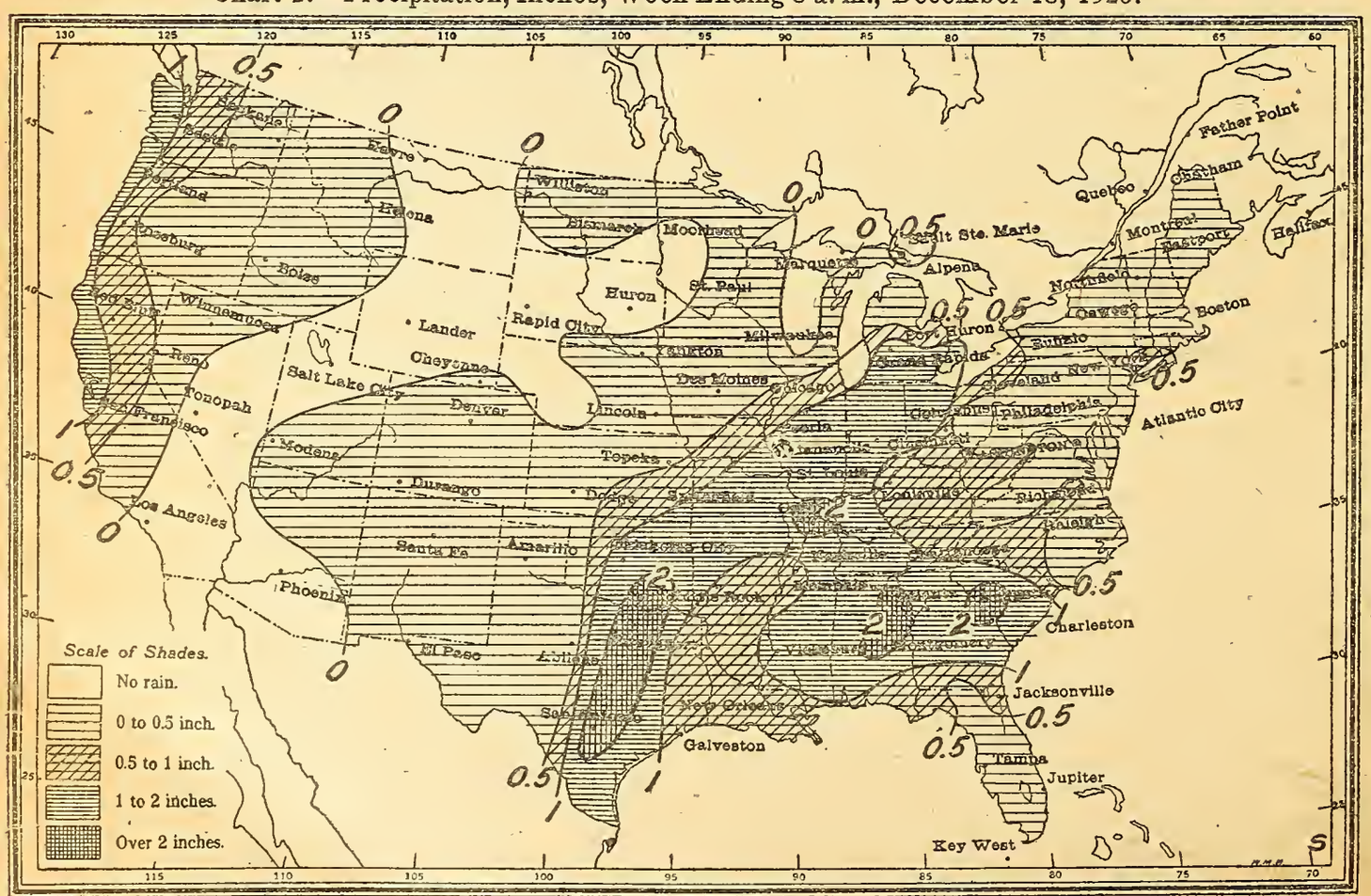


Chart 2.—Precipitation, Inches, Week Ending 8 a. m., December 18, 1923.



WASHINGTON : GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1923